

LESOTHO - GENERAL

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Normal relations with SA our aim — Lekhanya

DISPATCH

MASERU — The normalisation of the present state of affairs and relations between Lesotho and South Africa is the objective of the new military rulers of Lesotho, Major-General Mepsing Lekhanya, said in a nationwide broadcast over Radio Lesotho last night

Gen Lekhanya was delivering his first address to the Basotho nation after being sworn in yesterday as chairman of the Military Council

He said he was delivering the address in order to clarify the manner in which his new government would operate

Gen Lekhanya said he believed in the policy of peaceful co-existence and good neighbourliness

"Over a long period the Basotho nation has been plunged into a quagmire of politics by politicians whose activi-

ties did not serve the best interests of the people"

He said the activities of politicians in Lesotho had damaged relations between Lesotho and South Africa and this had led to the destruction of the economy of the country

The Military Council had decided therefore that "politics must stop in this country because it is politics which is at the root of the problems in which we find ourselves"

He called on the Basotho to "come together, trust each other and work towards the development of our poor country instead of using our strength in fighting which is of no value to us and which divides our people"

Gen Lekhanya also warned his opponents to stop resisting the new government in order to "avoid bloodshed involv-

ing innocent people"

Meanwhile, it is reported from New York that 57 African National Congress members will be airlifted from Lesotho to Zambia today under a deal negotiated between the United Nations, South Africa and the two governments

Implicit in the deal is the lifting of the Lesotho border blockade, but UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar failed to obtain an explicit guarantee on this in discussions with South African ambassador Kurt von Schirnding

The UN chief was in touch with the ambassador on Thursday night and again yesterday morning to secure overflight rights for the plane

In their talks, he "expressed concern that the border blockade should be lifted," his spokesman said

LESOTHO

Not far to fall

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FEATURE

In 1980, Lesotho launched a five-year economic plan, aimed essentially at reducing dependence on SA. This, it was thought, could be achieved through an aggressive export programme and planned import substitution. The project was ambitious, to say the least, for one of the world's poorest countries.

Threats of mass repatriation of SA's foreign workers highlight the situation. Clearly, expulsion of miners would cause the economy to collapse.

Lesotho's biggest export is manpower. More than 150 000 migrant workers are employed in SA, about 139 000 on the mines. Their remittances — 60% of earnings — make up over half the small mountain kingdom's gnp, and almost equal its entire gdp.

Much of this money, however, finds its way back across the border in import payments. Export proceeds account for only 7% of total imports.

More seriously, as mine labour becomes more organised and demand for skilled labour increases, the average length of contract goes up. Labour on the mines is also increasingly being replaced by machines, this tendency is set to continue. Between 10 000-15 000 new job seekers come on to the market annually, exacerbating already severe unemployment.

Essentially a remittance and subsistence economy, Lesotho is in an invidious position. Economically dependent on, and surrounded by, SA, it has little room to manoeuvre. Even fundamental change in the balance of power in SA would do little to help.

Only 13% of the land is suitable for cultivation. Most of the population is involved in subsistence agriculture.

In addition, the SA Customs Union (SACU) contributes nearly 70% of government revenue, R161m for the financial year 1984-1985. Only 41 000 people out of a total population of about 1,4m are formally in a wage-paying job.

Being so integrally bound up with SA, whatever hits SA affects Lesotho just as badly. Recession has therefore meant further deterioration in the economic position. Under the Rand Monetary Agreement, the rand is legal tender in Lesotho. For every Maloti (the equivalent unit) the central bank must deposit a rand back-up in the SA Reserve Bank.

"Imported inflation" — 97% of imports come from SA — and a substantially devalued currency have thwarted the government's ambitious plans.

Interest rates also move in tandem with SA. Lesotho could not afford the large movement of funds a different rate structure would trigger. While lending rates are effectively 2% lower than in SA, deposit rates tend to be on a par.

In effect, Lesotho has to allow economic

policy to tag along with that initiated by SA. The SA Reserve Bank holds quarterly meetings with the Lesotho central bank, and informs it of policy changes.

Potential to increase exports has been hampered by competition from SA. As Minister of Trade & Industry, K T Rakhetla, says "Our products have to compete against cut-throat competition and subsidies from SA which we cannot match."

South African manufacturers undercut local producers. Currently being investigated is a scheme whereby seven major commodities will be imported by a State trading corporation, enabling the government to control these prices. Use of local materials is encouraged.

Ironically, the situation has had advantages. Firstly, while dependence on foreign labour has not decreased, remittances have increased. In the first quarter of 1985, total payments to workers increased 10% from R40,8m to R45,1m. Increased wages on gold mines, despite a marginally reduced intake, have improved cash flow.

More significant has been increasing attention from aid donors. Much of this stems from the need to compensate Lesotho if sanctions are imposed on SA. There has also been rivalry between external powers since the Eastern bloc was invited to set up embassies and trade missions.

In general, aid takes the form of outright grants or loans, but in some cases local counterpart financing is required, usually tied to a particular development project. Generally, tenders are only accepted from member countries of sponsoring organisations.

Also, set apart from the region's pariah, with duty-free access to the SADCC countries and a signatory to the Lome Convention which provides preferential access to the EEC, it has become an increasingly attractive investment prospect.

Some South African entrepreneurs have moved plants across the border to take advantage of the substantially cheaper, and disorganised, workforce, and to avoid the "Made in SA" stigma. Coupled with such financial incentives as a six-year tax holiday, Lesotho has received many enquiries.

This has been enhanced by the Lesotho National Development Corporation (LNDC), which administers incentives and

provides factory sites and buildings. In its 1984-1985 financial year, the LNDC approved 13 commercial and industrial projects with a total cost of R13,6m.

However, only eight were new proposals, concentrated in the clothing and footwear industries. The remaining five were expansions to existing projects.

One stumbling block remains the South African decentralisation programme. Home-lands can still offer a more attractive deal. Most investment still comes from SA, although recently interest has been expressed by Hong Kong, Zimbabwe and various European countries. Incentives to foreign investors are under review.

Perhaps the major problem, however, is the lack of resources, personnel and infrastructure. Though Lesotho is highly monetised, with a relatively advanced banking system, aid donors and bankers alike are hard-pressed to find outlets for money.

Banks are substantially underlent, with more than 50% of deposits lying idle. This poor use of assets shows the extent to which

domestic credit is stagnating. Says one banker "We have perpetual difficulties finding feasible projects, and our bad debt ratio is high. The problem seems to be that few people have any understanding of finance."

Adds another "We urgently need to encourage the local entrepreneur, and find less risky business to invest in. At present, for every R10 we lend, we are likely to lose R5."

Previously banks used to invest surplus funds in SA. After formation of the central bank in 1980, only 15% of bank assets could be held outside Lesotho. It is therefore a priority to find ways of using excess liquidity.

Adds one prominent expatriate. "The depth of expertise is poor. From concept to implementation is a steep downhill. There is also a tendency for individuals in high places to feather their own nests. As there is only one party, representing one ethnic group, competition is stifled."

The one thing that could change the course of Lesotho's history is the proposed Highlands Water Scheme. A draft report of the feasibility study is due imminently. If a treaty between SA and Lesotho is hammered out, design is expected to begin in March.



Farm workers ... scratching around

Pretoria rejects Maseru's protestations of innocence, maintaining:

Lesotho is main ANC base

By John D'Oliveira,
Editor of The Star's
Africa News Service

Behind South Africa's contentions "blockade" of Lesotho lies Pretoria's unshakable belief that the mountain kingdom has become the African National Congress's main operations base against South Africa.

Lesotho has repeatedly and vigorously denied this.

It has also repeatedly claimed that it does not allow its territory to be used against its powerful neighbour or that it looks the other way while ANC activists conspire at death and destruction in South Africa.

Clearly, Pretoria has rejected Lesotho's protestations.

It will continue to reject them until Lesotho agrees to a joint security mechanism which satisfies — at the very least — the major demands set by South Africa's security chiefs.

Campaign

While South Africa has accused Lesotho of failing to act against the ANC, Lesotho has claimed that South Africa funds, trains and encourages the Lesotho Liberation Army (LLA) in its bloody campaign against the Lesotho Jonathan government.

Despite Maseru's protestations, Pretoria believes that the signing of the Nkomati Accord in 1984 forced the ANC to abandon Maputo as a springboard for actions in South Africa — and that the ANC moved this element of its operations to Lesotho.

Pretoria operates in the firm belief that the presence of the ANC in Lesotho is so pervasive and so blatant that the only explanation for the Jonathan government's failure to act is that

By Gary van Staden,
The Star's Africa News Service

'Coup bid' described as defence force exercise

MASERU — An apparent uprising among members of the youth wing in Prime Minister Leabua Jonathan's party led to yesterday's flurry of military activity in the city and rumours of a coup, sources here have claimed.

People fled panic-stricken from the area around Prime Minister Leabua Jonathan's offices in the city yesterday morning as about 150 to 200 defence force personnel sealed off the building.

Amid speculation of a coup attempt the Minister of Information, Mr Desmond Sixsibe, called a Press conference yesterday at which he described the day's happenings as a defence force exercise.

He said that there was no question of a coup or attempted coup.

Mr Sixsibe said that there had been no changes in the government, "that I am aware of".

It has allowed itself to be used by the ANC.

Apart from anything else, there is a deep conviction among South African security officers that when South Africa sends Lesotho information on ANC activities in the country, this information is passed on to the ANC.

Partly as a result of the international reaction to its military raids into Mozambique, Lesotho and Gabonone and the difficulty of demonstrating that it had used the military only as a final option, the South African Government has recently kept both the United States and Great Britain informed of its contacts with Lesotho on security affairs.

Both countries were asked to use their good offices to convey the seriousness of the situation to the Jonathan government.

The latest chapter in Lesotho/South African relations opened in mid-August last year when Mr P.K. Botha, the South African Minister of Foreign Affairs, visited Maseru to warn the Jonathan government — again — about the activities of the ANC.

At the meeting, Mr Botha provided Mr Desmond Sixsibe,

Minister of Information and Broadcasting, and the Lesotho officials who attended the discussions, with detailed information about alleged African National Congress activities in Lesotho.

Mr Botha told Mr Sixsibe that South Africa had overwhelming and irrefutable evidence that facilities in Lesotho were being used by the ANC to give its South African supporters crash courses in the handling of weapons and explosives.

ANC commanders stationed in Lesotho provided the information to activists from South Africa who came into Lesotho as "tourists".

After two or three days of instruction, the "tourists" were briefed on the South African targets to be attacked.

Mr Botha referred to specific hotel rooms and to other specific facilities in Lesotho which were being used by ANC activists.

He told Mr Sixsibe that the National Bank of Lesotho had provided banking facilities for use by the ANC.

He gave the names and the functions of some of the ANC officials concerned and said the

A check on police stations, the radio station and other government buildings in the city revealed no sign of troops and it appeared as if only the Prime Minister's offices had been involved.

Despite the official line taken on yesterday's incident, rumours persist — backed up by some close government confidants — that the defence force had moved in to cut off a threatened uprising by the youth wing of the ruling party.

While it is not clear what may have led to the alleged uprising observers here believe it could be linked either to the Government's handling of the present border crisis with South Africa or anger over speculation that all South African refugees would be expelled, or handed over to the South Africans.

The Lesotho Government said yesterday that it was determined to stand by its obligations to South African refugees and that no action would be taken against them.

By mid-afternoon yesterday the city was tense but quiet and most of the troops had left the Prime Minister's offices.

Information was only a small part of what it had collected.

On October 11, Mr Botha and Mr Sixsibe met again, this time in Pretoria.

Once again Mr Botha covered the area of complaint and said that the Lesotho Government was not addressing South Africa's concerns.

Once again, Mr Sixsibe raised Lesotho's complaints about South African involvement in the LLA's cross-border activities.

Both men denied the other's allegations.

Mr Botha said the situation pointed to a clear need for an unhindered joint security mechanism.

Mr Botha said the creation of a joint security commission was particularly important because Lesotho and South Africa did not have formal diplomatic relations.

The Lesotho/South African liaison committee worked well, but it was not equipped to deal with security.

Mr Sixsibe said he would consult his government, but there was no response to Mr Botha's suggestion.

In the middle of December, the South African security ser-

vice received information of a build-up of trained ANC guerrillas in Lesotho. The information suggested that the guerrillas had flown into Lesotho, mainly from Maputo.

South Africa sent Lesotho an urgent telegram asking it to investigate and to respond.

The Lesotho Government replied that it did not allow its territory to be used to mount attacks against South Africa. It said that, unless it had more specific information, it could not deal with the South African complaint.

South Africa replied that it had reason to believe the Lesotho Government did not need further information — and that it found the Lesotho responses unsatisfactory.

Shortly after this — on December 21 — nine people were assassinated in Maseru. The dead included six ANC members and three Lesotho citizens. The killers used silenced weapons.

Mandates

The new security measures took effect at the beginning of last week and, within days, Lesotho suggested joint security matters should be dealt with by a sub-committee of the liaison committee.

South Africa agreed, but told Lesotho that its representatives on the sub-committee should have full mandates to negotiate and to act.

On Monday Lesotho contacted South Africa and said it had designated the membership of a high ranking committee which was standing by to travel to South Africa for talks.

South Africa said it would schedule the meeting as soon as possible — and it reminded the Lesotho Government that its representatives should be "fully mandated".

The meeting will probably be held in Pretoria early next week.

Sources close to the South African Government say it is unlikely that border security arrangements will be relaxed until negotiations with Lesotho yield tangible results.

BUS. DAY 3/1/86

Bar at Lesotho border

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MASERU — South African border officials are barring most Lesotho citizens trying to cross the border, Lesotho Government officials said

The move apparently started yesterday, with South African immigration officials only allowing through those working in mines in the Republic. No reason was given for the clampdown, they added.

Lesotho officials at the Maseru bridge border post said the South Africans told those barred yesterday they would be allowed in today, but this morning they were turned away again.

The Lesotho Information Minister, Mr Desmond Sixishe, said he felt the South African action was a retaliatory move against Lesotho, which this week petitioned the UN Security Council over the killing on December 20 of nine people in

Maseru.

Lesotho blamed South Africa for the murders, but Pretoria denied any involvement. The killings were claimed in a telephone call to Sapa by the Lesotho National Liberation Army. The Security Council unanimously condemned South Africa for the killings. — Sapa-Reuter

In Pretoria, no comment could be obtained from government officials.

A Department of Foreign Affairs spokesman referred enquiries on the allegations to the Department of Home Affairs, saying it handled border control.

A Home Affairs spokesman referred the matter to the South African Police, explaining the police handled border control posts on an "agency" basis for Home Affairs.

A police spokesman said he had no comment at this stage. Sapa

Entry curbs implemented to counter increase in terrorists, say officials

Govt clamps down on Lesotho border traffic

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Suspect vehicles

Reacting to the allegations of a border clampdown, a spokesman of the Department of Foreign Affairs said the South African authorities were forced to take steps regarding the movement of people across the border as a result of confidential information indicating an increase in the number of terrorists in Lesotho

The measures included restrictions on certain categories of visitors from Lesotho and restrictions on the granting of new border traffic privileges.

Suspect vehicles possibly transporting hidden people or arms were being thoroughly searched, she said

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Lesotho blamed South Africa for the murders, but Pretoria denied any involvement. Responsibility for the killings was claimed by the Lesotho National Liberation Army. The Security Council unanimously condemned South Africa for the killings - Sapa-Reuter

MASERU — The South African Government is restricting the number of visitors crossing its border with Lesotho due to fears that the number of terrorists in its neighbouring country was increasing.

The Department of Foreign Affairs this week confirmed it was taking steps to curb the traffic between the two countries, following claims by Lesotho Government officials that South African border officials were barring most Lesotho citizens trying to cross the border

The move apparently started on Wednesday, with South African immigration officials only allowing through those working in mines in South Africa. No reason was given for the clampdown, Lesotho Government officials said

Lesotho officials at the Maseru Bridge border post said the South Africans told those barred on Wednesday they would be allowed in the next day, but on Thursday morning they were turned away again

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S-T
5/11/86

Lesotho SA links nosedive

By JEREMY BROOKS

LESOTHO-South African relations have plunged further with a new "get tough" approach by South African authorities at the border crossings

On Friday the Department of Foreign Affairs announced a clampdown against cross-border travellers, saying the reason was concern over ANC activity in Lesotho

Police are methodically searching vehicles and vetting passports.

But the step is almost a carbon copy of actions taken in 1983 during an earlier Maseru-Pretoria row.

Rigorous checks on the South African side reduced traffic to a trickle and almost strangled Lesotho's economy

Hectic

This week's move follows a particularly hectic United Nations debate called by the Lesotho Government to condemn South Africa for the mystery commando raid into Lesotho's capital two weeks ago

A Ladybrand garage owner on the main road from Maseru said yesterday that vehicles passing to the north had decreased noticeably.

The Police public relations department in Pretoria said no incidents had been reported since the tighter measures were introduced.

The Department of Foreign Affairs on Friday officially confirmed the measures, which it said were the result of increased ANC insurgency into the Republic from Lesotho.

'SA border clampdown will disrupt Maseru's food supply'

ARCUS

6/1/86

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Argus Africa News Service

MASERU — The South African clampdown on traffic across the border with Lesotho threatens a severe disruption of fresh food supplies in Maseru, according to sources here

The clampdown is said to have curbed the activities of fresh-produce dealers who normally cross daily into South Africa to buy milk, vegetables and livestock for slaughtering

Cars searched

Basotho businessmen claim that anyone wanting to cross into South Africa on private business has been turned back since Wednesday. Only Basotho going to jobs in South Africa have been allowed through

In addition, all vehicles entering South Africa are being searched, causing long delays at the Maseru border post

Fears have been expressed in Maseru that the tightening of the border controls will make it difficult for Basotho to go to Bloemfontein for specialist treatment at the Pelonomi Hospital

Lesotho has rejected the South African claim that the clampdown was prompted by the threat of African National Congress terrorism from Lesotho

An official statement issued in Maseru said South Africa had so far failed to respond to Lesotho's request for detailed information about alleged ANC activities to enable Lesotho to make appropriate investigations

A government spokesman said the clampdown was South African retaliation against Lesotho's refusal to hand over political refugees and against the Security Resolution, adopted at Lesotho's instigation, blaming South Africa for the killing of six South Africans and three Basotho in Maseru on December 19

The spokesman said Lesotho would never send refugees back to South Africa, would allow them to go on to other countries if they wished but would not allow its own soil to be used as a base for military attacks across the border.

Lesotho fears S A may refuse entry of consumer goods

(167) Mercury 6/1/86

Mercury Correspondent
JOHANNESBURG—With the South African Government sworn to take harsh action within neighbouring countries against terrorist cadres, the Lesotho Government yesterday expressed fears of 'retaliatory measures'

Since the New Year's Day clampdown at the South African/Lesotho border posts, Lesotho's Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Mr Desmond Sixishe, has expressed concern over possible retaliation

In the past there have been accusations from South Africa that Lesotho has harboured ANC terrorists

Lesotho has already accused South Africa of using the border clampdown as a 'retaliatory measure' against the small, land-locked country following Lesotho's successful petition to the

UN Security Council on the killing of nine people in Maseru in December

As the clampdown entered its third day yesterday, Lesotho's Ministry of Foreign Affairs sent a telex message to the Department of Foreign Affairs in Pretoria asking for an explanation of the border situation.

Now it is feared that unless Pretoria and Maseru resolve the border problem the South African authorities may tighten their grip still further by refusing the entry of consumer goods into Lesotho from South Africa

Lesotho is heavily dependent on South Africa for supplies of essential goods and more than 50 percent of the country's food requirements — including milk and vegetables — are imported from South Africa

The South African au-

thorities ordered a slowdown in immigration checks at all the border posts on New Year's Day. Officials on the South African side of the border post allowed only Basotho workers employed on the South African mines and industry to pass through.

Lesotho nationals intending to travel to South Africa on private business were turned back

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Curbs on Lesotho hit food supplies

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The Star's Africa News Service

MASERU — The South African clampdown on traffic across the Lesotho border threatens a severe disruption of fresh food supplies in Maseru, according to sources in Lesotho.

The clamp is said to have curbed the activities of fresh produce dealers who normally cross daily into South Africa to buy milk, vegetables and livestock.

Basotho businessmen claim anyone wanting to cross into South Africa on private business has been turned back since Wednesday. Only Basotho going to jobs in South Africa have been allowed through.

In addition, all vehicles entering South Africa are being thoroughly searched, causing long delays at the Maseru border post.

Fears have been expressed in Maseru that the tightening of border controls will make it difficult for Basotho to go to Bloemfontein for specialist treatment at the Pelonomi hospital.

RETALIATION

The Lesotho Government has rejected the South African claim that the clampdown was prompted by the threat of ANC terrorism from Lesotho.

An official statement issued in Maseru said South Africa had so far failed to respond to Lesotho's request for detailed information about the alleged ANC activities to enable appropriate investigations to be made.

A government spokesman said the clampdown was South African retaliation against Lesotho's refusal to hand over political refugees and against the United Nations Security Resolution, adopted at Lesotho's instigation, blaming South Africa for the killing of six South Africans and three Basotho in Maseru on December 19.

Border post security hits traders

Own Correspondent

BLOEMFONTEIN — The strict security measures by the SA Police at border posts between South Africa and Lesotho are having an adverse effect on traders on the Free State side of the border.

Only Lesotho citizens with accredited work permits are allowed through the SA border posts. These arrangements have been in force since New Year's day and all vehicles are thoroughly searched.

Towns especially hit by the control are Ficksburg, Fouriesburg, Ladybrand and Wepener, where many Lesotho citizens normally do their shopping.

Many South African citizens are leaving their vehicles on the SA side of the border and walking to the Lesotho border post to avoid a long wait while their vehicles are being searched.

Ficksburg's town clerk, Mr Frans Viljoen, says about 50 percent of Ficksburg's retail trade is dependent on Lesotho citizens.

Many people who live at Ladybrand and work in Maseru are also badly affected.

Professor claims water threat

SA wanted 'Nkomati' deal with Lesotho

By Gerald L'Ange,
The Star's Africa News Service

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STAR
8/1/86

South Africa tried to force Lesotho to sign a security agreement similar to the Nkomati Accord by threatening to pull out of the Highlands water scheme, says a visiting Australian academic

Pretoria also put pressure on Maseru to sign the accord by blocking the passage of military equipment imported by Lesotho, says Professor T B Millar

ANC terrorism

His claims are made in a paper on regional security in Southern Africa published by the South African Institute of International Affairs

Professor Millar, who is head of Australian studies at London University's Institute of Commonwealth Studies, wrote the paper after spending three months with the SAIIA on a Bradlow Fellowship

Another claim in his paper is that before the Nkomati Accord with Mozambique was signed, South Africa tried to get the Maputo government to accept a more far-reaching agreement that would have provided for collective action with South Africa against ANC terrorism

Professor Millar says the information about Pretoria's efforts to get Maputo to agree to collective action against terrorism came from officials in Maputo

The Mozambique government rejected the proposed accord, which would have been similar to the one which South Africa signed with Swaziland

South Africa did not need Nkomati-type accords with Zimbabwe, Zambia and Malawi, says the professor, because its relations with them were close to de facto accords of this type

The Nkomati Accord, he says, has shown South Africa that "total onslaught" can be challenged

But in pursuing its destabilising military policy, South Africa "has sown dragons' teeth" Unless these were uprooted Nkomati would fail and the area would be pretty much back to where it was before.

Border bar continues

MASERU. — South Africa's border clampdown on the entry of Lesotho nationals has gone on for a week, with no sign of an early end, travellers said yesterday.

They said long queues of cars and people were still forming at the border as South African officials enforced a bar on Basotho, except expatriates or those working on South African mines, from entering.

The move started on January 1, and Pretoria said it was aimed at curbing black guerillas.

Lesotho, which denies harbouring African National Congress fighters, said the move was in retaliation against a United Nations Security Council resolution that unanimously condemned Pretoria for a raid on Maseru last month in which nine people died.

Lesotho accused South Africa of involvement, but Pretoria denied the charge. — Sapa-Reuter

Basotho seek 'peace' talks

STAR, 10/11/86 (167)

The leaders of three Lesotho opposition parties have arrived in South Africa to plead with the Government to hold talks with King Moshoeshe to resolve the impasse between the two countries

They are Mr Makalo Khaketla of the Marematlou Freedom Party, Mr Charles Mofedi of the United Democratic Party, and Mr G P Ramoreboli of the Basutoland Congress Party

They told SABC radio news that as the rightful traditional leader of Lesotho, King Moshoeshe was in a position to talk to President Botha

Such talks could help Basotho out of the difficult situation into which they had been led by what they called a self-imposed government in Lesotho.

The three leaders said people in Lesotho were going through hard times because of the border restrictions — as the country was totally dependent on South Africa for food supplies

— Sapa

Body of mental pat

Border clamp could cause food shortage

BUS DAY 9/1/86

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DURBAN — South African traders voiced fears yesterday that people living in eastern Lesotho might soon be facing a serious shortage of food if the South African government's clamp on traffic through the Sani Pass border post was not eased soon.

The tightening of restrictions on Lesotho citizens entering SA has cut traffic over the pass to a trickle, say traders who asked not to be identified for fear of reprisals.

Sani Pass is the main gateway to eastern Lesotho and most of the region's provisions, including United Nations aid, is trucked into the rugged, land-locked country from Natal up the 2 900-metre pass.

The traders said Lesotho nationals driving trucks which carry food supplies from Natal to shops in Mokhotlong and other settlements had been barred from entering SA through the Sani Pass border post.

Only South African-registered trucks — carrying less than half the amount of food that usually crosses the border — had been allowed through since Friday.

South African authorities ordered a slowdown in immigration checks at all the border posts serving Lesotho on New Year's Day. On the western side of the country, South African officials allowed only Basotho workers returning to mines in this country through the border.

Lesotho nationals intending to travel to SA on private business were turned back.

Lesotho has accused South Africa of using the border clampdown as a 'retaliatory measure' because of Le-

Business Day Correspondent

sotho's successful petition to the United Nations Security Council after the killing of nine people in Maseru last month.

Eight attempts to contact a spokesman for the Department of Foreign Affairs in Pretoria for comment were unsuccessful yesterday.

South Africans involved in the cross-border traffic say the blockade will soon cause serious food shortages in Lesotho.

The closure is also hitting businesses in the South African border towns of Himeville and Underberg.

One trader there said. "Businesses here are suffering. We can run vehicles up to Mokhotlong, but none of the Lesotho trucks can get through."

He said his company ran two trucks, each carrying about eight tons on a one-day trip. But one of the trucks was being repaired.

Most of the other trucks which carried food over the border were Lesotho-registered.

"We are battling to cope with the demand. We are far behind on our orders and we are concentrating on getting mealie meal and groceries to a wholesaler in Mokhotlong so other traders can at least get some goods from him.

"They have probably not reached starving point yet, but if it goes on much longer, there will be problems."

Usually about eight trucks made the trip each day, carrying roughly 64 tons. Well under half this quantity was now getting through.

Supermarkets begin running out of goods

Lesotho faces crisis over SA 'blockade'

STAR
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The Star's Africa News Service

Maseru

The Lesotho Cabinet is to meet today in an atmosphere of growing crisis as the unofficial South African "blockade" of the landlocked mountain kingdom continues.

A Lesotho Government spokesman said Prime Minister Chief Leabua Jonathan had already "briefed" US President Ronald Reagan, and British Prime Minister Mrs Margaret Thatcher on South Africa's actions, and other measures would be taken to inform the international community as a whole.

Because of intensified South African security measures at border posts, Lesotho businessmen have been unable to enter South Africa to buy and collect goods.

Yesterday the South African Transport Services railway station in Maseru remained locked. And a goods train bound for Maseru was stopped at the border and searched thoroughly by South African policemen.

Petrol hoarding

Supermarkets in Maseru have already run out of some products. Petrol is short and residents are understood to be hoarding petrol in case the "blockade" continues.

Lesotho claims it has already informed the South African Government that it would like to discuss the border situation and that a Lesotho Government team — including the Secretary to the Cabinet, the Principal Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Principal Secretary for Defence and Security, the Commissioner of Police, the Director of Security Services, and the Commander of the Lesotho Paramilitary Force — was standing by for the talks.

Radio Lesotho claimed today that South Africa had imposed a "total embargo" on oil and other essential commodities as part of its "economic blockade" of the country.

It also claimed that essential medical supplies for Lesotho's health services had been stopped and that Basotho patients who wanted to travel to South Africa for urgent medical attention had been turned back at the border.

The action by South Africa follows the killing in Maseru late last year of six South African refugees and three Lesotho citizens.

Though the rebel Lesotho Liberation Army claimed responsibility, the Lesotho Government said the LLA was an extension of the SADF and South Africa was to blame.

Lesotho bows to SA pressure for talks

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By DAVID BRAUN
Political Staff

LESOTHO has succumbed to South African pressure to hold joint talks on mutual security, after years of wrangling.

A message from Maseru late yesterday said Lesotho agreed to a South African proposal that a special sub-committee on security be set up as part of the existing bilateral liaison committee.

The Department of Foreign Affairs said today, however, that Lesotho's "positive reaction" did not mean that border restrictions would be immediately relaxed.

"This is precisely what we want to talk about," a spokesman said.

With jobs

Pretoria decided to restrict border traffic from January 1 after Maseru failed to respond to repeated requests for security talks.

At first the restrictions were applied to Lesotho nationals trying to enter South Africa, with only those with jobs in South Africa being allowed in.

In recent days vehicles and trains leaving South Africa have also been thoroughly searched, resulting in long delays and reports of shortages of goods in Maseru.

South African sources said that as a result of continued threats to South African security and in the absence of other security mechanism, the thorough searching of all vehicles entering and leaving South Africa would continue.

They said that when South Africa proposed security talks Lesotho asked why the existing bilateral liaison committee which was used to negotiate technical issues could not be used.

Accusations

When South Africa countered that a sub-committee dealing exclusively with security matters should be formed as part of the liaison committee, Lesotho did not respond until late yesterday.

Relations between the two countries have deteriorated in recent months following fresh accusations by South Africa that elements were using Lesotho to plan and launch violent attacks across the border; the incident in which nine people were recently gunned down in Maseru, and the ensuing Security Council debate.

Lesotho opposition leaders met the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Pik Botha, last Friday in an effort to resolve the crisis. They proposed that President P W Botha meet the Lesotho king.

South Africa has previously warned Lesotho that unless security problems can be resolved, South Africa will not proceed with a vital joint water project.

● Sapa reports from Maseru that Lesotho has briefed Presi-

(Turn to Page 3, col 7)

NR 645 14/1/86 167

Lesotho bows to SA pressure

Continued from Page 1

dent Ronald Reagan of the US and the British Prime Minister, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, on the dispute.

Radio Lesotho announced today that measures to inform the international community would be undertaken today.

Meanwhile Sapa reports from Harare that Ministers from several parts of the world and senior officials of international organisations are to meet there at the end of the month to discuss ways of helping Southern African countries cope with the likely effects of sanctions against South Africa.

The semi-official Zimbabwean news agency, Ziana, said the Ministers will attend the fifth annual meeting of the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference, normally attended by relatively junior officials of governments providing aid to the regional economic group.

But senior representatives have been summoned to this year's meeting to impress upon supporting governments the urgency of preparing for South Africa's reaction to sanctions which might throw the region's transport system into disarray.

Top Commonwealth and World Bank officials will join delegates on January 30 and 31 to review the SADCC's first five years.

BUS DAY 14/1/86 (167)

Border row on the agenda

MASERU — The Lesotho Cabinet is expected to discuss the worsening border dispute between Lesotho and SA at its first meeting of the New Year today.

The situation deteriorated yesterday when the local offices of the SA Transport Services failed to open, Sapa's correspondent reports

Goods imported from SA and delivered by rail failed to arrive. Travellers returning to Maseru

said police had stopped a goods train on the SA side of the border. Containers in several trucks had been searched, they said.

A long queue of motor vehicles formed at SA border posts

Informed sources said rail tankers transporting petrol to depots in Maseru had been removed from regular goods trains, and a Maseru supermarket said many SA goods had sold out — Sapa

Go-slow is a two-edged sword, say SA traders

By Duncan Guy

Businessmen in Orange Free State and Natal towns along the Lesotho border are also feeling the pinch of the "blockade" at customs posts.

On the South African side, hardest hit of all has been Ficksburg where

Red envoy's helpmeet

There may be concern in Lesotho about possible food shortages as a result of the unofficial South Africa "blockade" — but one man who is not too concerned is Soviet resident Mr Yuri Popov.

Mr Popov, a senior secretary at the Russian Embassy in Maseru, was asked by Charles Guild, *The Star's* Bloemfontein correspondent, how serious the food shortage was now.

"If the situation gets too bad, I can always eat my wife," said Mr Popov.

business has dropped to a dismal two percent, according to the mayor, Mr Timon Janssonius.

"Most businessmen here believe this situation is temporary and is so for security reasons, but we are confident that time will sort it out," he added.

Mr Janssonius, who is also chairman of the Ficksburg-Leribe liaison committee, a communications body between Lesotho and South African businesses, said Lesotho would not survive for long without supplies from South Africa and that negotiations should soon be motivated from that side.

CONFIRMED

"The two Lesotho opposition leaders now in custody confirmed this when I saw them on Monday," he added.

Mr Janssonius also said that as far as "the man in the street was concerned" relations be-

tween people living on both sides of the Caledon River were excellent.

"I believe most Basothos think that Chief Jonathan is to blame for the trouble."

Mr Janssonius declared that he and Ficksburg business community were behind Foreign Affairs Minister Pik Botha all the way in the border saga.

In nearby Ladybrand, the mayor, Mr J J Kleynhans, confirmed that trade had dropped by 15 percent.

A local businessman who frequently commutes between the town and Maseru, but did not wish to be named, described the present conditions as very inconvenient.

"Six-month entry visas are not being renewed at the South African side of the border and the queues are ridiculous," he said.

"Supplies, especially fuel, are desperately short in Lesotho."

Lesotho opposition leaders held

MASERU — The five Lesotho opposition leaders who held talks in Pretoria with the South African Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Pik Botha, over the border dispute between the two countries were detained by Lesotho Security Police yesterday morning.

This was confirmed by Lesotho's Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Mr Desmond Sixishe, at a Press conference.

The men returned to Lesotho last night after spending several days in Pretoria.

State-controlled Radio Lesotho said in repeated broadcasts that the men had "not only encouraged the South African authorities to tighten the blockade on Lesotho, but they had also provided the South African Government with advice on how the Govern-

ment of Lesotho could be brought down by pressure from South Africa."

The opposition leaders are Mr Charles Molapo, a former Cabinet Minister; Mr Seisa Ngokane, of the Basotho Democratic Alliance; Mr Bennett Kha-ketla, president of the Marematlou Freedom Party; Mr Charles Mofeli, leader of the United Democratic Party; and Mr Gerard Ramoreboli, head of the Basotholand Congress Party.

Mr Sixishe told the Press conference that the Lesotho Government was urgently seeking an international airlift of essential foodstuffs, fuel and medical supplies to help fight the effect of the border closure.

He said Lesotho was prepared to talk to South Africa and was ready to send a delegation to discuss "what South Africa wants." — Sapa.

ANC denies support for 'grand alliance'

LUSAKA — A spokesman for the African National Congress denied yesterday that his organisation was backing the formation of a formalised "grand alliance" of anti-apartheid forces in South Africa.

In a telephone interview yesterday, Mr Tom Sebina said that the ANC believed in greater unity, in closer co-operation and in effective co-ordination between the organisations and individuals in South Africa who were opposed to the present system.

"But we do not like the word 'alliance' and we do not have in mind involvement in a formalised body . . . we are not talking of an organised entity but of greater unity of purpose and action and greater collaboration "

Meetings

Commenting on reports that the ANC was backing a "grand alian-

It expected organisations like the United Democratic Front, trade unions, student organisations, churches and others to work more closely

"We proceed from the fact that there should be greater unity and greater co-ordination between all those who serve the real interests of the people of South Africa

"Because the ANC is an illegal organisation in South Africa, it cannot participate in the process, but we remain available for consultation here in Lusaka . . . "

SOWETAN Correspondent

ce", that this alliance already had the backing of the National Convention Movement in South Africa and that further meetings would be held here, Mr Sebina said the ANC expected wider consultation between the opponents of apartheid in South Africa.

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Lesotho agrees bodily to security

DISPATCH
15/11/86

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Dispatch Correspondent

CAPE TOWN — Lesotho has agreed to the establishment of a joint monitoring commission with South Africa to deal with border problems.

But this does not mean that the present tight controls on the South African side of the border will be lifted immediately

The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Pik Botha, announced yesterday that Lesotho had agreed to his proposal for a joint committee to deal with border problems but said that he would have to discuss the lifting of the present controls with the State President, Mr P W Botha, and other cabinet colleagues

At the same time, he denied that South Africa was imposing a "blockade" or "boycott" against Lesotho and blamed the current stricter control measures on the Lesotho Government's lack of action against alleged ANC terrorists

Dealing with reports that food and medical supplies were not getting through to Lesotho and that people who needed medical treatment in South Africa were not being allowed to cross the border, Mr Botha said this had never been the intention of the stricter controls

"We will look into the matter immediately," he said

He said that in August

he had supplied the Lesotho Government with the names, and even room numbers, of ANC terrorists who were being given crash courses in Lesotho in the use of handgrenades and explosives

His impression was that the Lesotho Government had done nothing about the matter and the stricter border controls were instituted to prevent "these elements" entering South Africa

The South African Government also had evidence of large numbers of terrorists being trained in Lesotho and assisted to leave on a daily flight to Maputo

"They are flying back and forth all the time," Mr Botha said

He had offered to set up a joint committee to investigate these matters and other border complaints and the Lesotho Government had just agreed to this. A sub-committee would meet as soon as the Lesotho representatives could cross the border

Mr Botha said he knew nothing of an oil boycott or blockade against Lesotho and said that border crossing delays were being caused by the police having to check all vehicles more thoroughly under the

prevailing circumstances

"If there is no joint monitoring committee we have no option but to have stricter controls," he said

Lesotho should either hand over ANC terrorists in its territory to the South African Government — "so they can be properly dealt with" — or stop them from entering Lesotho

South African security forces had been on the point of entering Lesotho in August when on the advice of Britain and America, he had gone there personally to give the government evidence of ANC training activities

Mr Botha said South Africa did not have evidence of complicity between terrorists and the Lesotho Government

However, there was an agreement that neither country would allow its territory to be used by terrorists for attacks on the other

The Lesotho Government commandeered all petrol supplies yesterday and is rationing fuel as a result of the border clampdown

Lesotho's Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Mr Desmond Sixishe, said in a telephone interview that he thought the South African Government wanted Lesotho to return political refugees to South Africa, and ultimately to determine who Lesotho had diplomatic relations with

Mr Sixishe said all government transport was at a standstill, except for essential services

He said Lesotho's Prime Minister, Chief Leabua Jonathan, had sent urgent messages to United States President Ronald Reagan and to the British Prime Minister, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, briefing them on the situation

It was reported from London that Mrs Thatcher had made an urgent appeal to Pretoria to lift the blockade

Mr Sixishe confirmed that five Lesotho opposition leaders who held talks with Mr Pik Botha last week had been arrested by security police

South Africa gets tough and the world sees Lesotho's vulnerability

Two weeks and Maseru toes line

By David Braun,
Political Correspondent

CAPE TOWN — Lesotho's decision this week to enter into negotiations on security matters with South Africa demonstrates just how vulnerable the minuscule country is to economic pressure from its giant neighbour

For it was only two weeks of tough border restrictions by South Africa that caused the Lesotho Cabinet to meet in crisis and finally agree to sit at the negotiating table on a matter it has desperately tried to avoid — its alleged support for the ANC, the use of its territory to launch attacks on South Africa, and the question of signing a security pact with South Africa

Delays in the delivery of fresh food, petrol and medical supplies, caused by the thorough searching of all vehicles entering and leaving South Africa since January 1, ultimately had more impact than any of Pretoria's threats

These included the possible cancellation of a giant joint water project considered essential for the development of the Lesotho economy

Relations between South Africa and Lesotho reached a low point after Maseru recently called for a meeting of the United Nations Security Council to blame South Africa for the killing of six South Africans and three Basotho in Maseru on December 19

At Lesotho's instigation, the Security Council adopted a resolution condemning South Africa for the killing of the nine, six of whom have since been confirmed as being ANC members

DENIED

South Africa has denied responsibility for the killings, and has instead used Lesotho's allegations to support its actions on the border

The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Pik Botha, said the most urgent reason for restricting border traffic was the South African Government's responsibility to ensure the security of its citizens by cutting the access of terrorists to its territory

South Africa has periodically claimed that Lesotho not only gives sanctuary to ANC guerillas, but that the organisation uses Lesotho to train its personnel and plan its operations

Use is allegedly also made of the weekly flight between Maseru and Maputo in Mozambique to send ANC recruits for extensive terror training before being returned to Lesotho for infiltration back into South Africa

South African sources say they are increasingly edgy about what is perceived to be growing Soviet influence over the Lesotho Government. They say there are more Soviet diplomatic personnel in Maseru than there are American diplomats in the whole of South Africa

Lesotho has always insisted that it gives sanctuary to political refugees only, and that it does not permit people to use the country to plan and launch attacks on South Africa

On the contrary, it accuses South Africa of supporting destabilisation of Lesotho, and claims that the Lesotho National Liberation Army, which has claimed responsibility for acts of violence in Lesotho, is no more than an extension of the SA Defence Force.

Lesotho has rejected the assertion that the clampdown on the border between the two countries was prompted by the threat of ANC terrorism from its soil

It claims that South Africa has failed to respond to its request for detailed information about alleged ANC activities to enable it to make appropriate investigations

The clampdown is instead a retaliation for Lesotho's refusal to hand over political refugees and for the Security Council resolution, it says

Mr Botha denies that there is any retaliation, or that South Africa is boycotting or blockading Lesotho

According to a source in his department, the border restrictions will remain in force until the two countries sit down to thrash out their differences on security problems

RELAXATION

The Minister said yesterday that a decision on the relaxation of the restrictions would be taken after he had consulted with the President and his colleagues

He admitted yesterday that the South Africa Government had no hard evidence that there were any ANC activists still in Lesotho or that there was any evidence of complicity of the Lesotho Government with the ANC

Tiny Lesotho vulnerable

Two weeks of tough restrictions persuaded Lesotho to sit at the negotiating table. DAVID BRAUN of The Argus Political Staff reports



Strict searches at the border post between South Africa and Lesotho have caused long queues and congestion. In some cases vehicles have been held up on the South African side for up to 24 hours.

LESOTHO'S decision to enter into negotiations on security matters with South Africa demonstrates just how vulnerable the minuscule country is to economic pressure from its giant neighbour.

For it was only two weeks of tough border restrictions on the part of South Africa that caused the Lesotho Cabinet to meet in crisis and to agree finally to sit at the negotiating table on a matter which it has desperately tried to avoid — the issue of Lesotho's alleged support for the ANC and its indifference to the organisation's use of its territory to launch attacks on South Africa, and the question of its signing a security pact with South Africa.

Delays in the delivery of vital fresh food, petrol and medical supplies, caused by the thorough searching of all vehicles entering and leaving South Africa since January 1, ultimately had more impact than any of Pretoria's threats, including the possible cancellation of a grant joint water project considered essential for the development of the Lesotho economy.

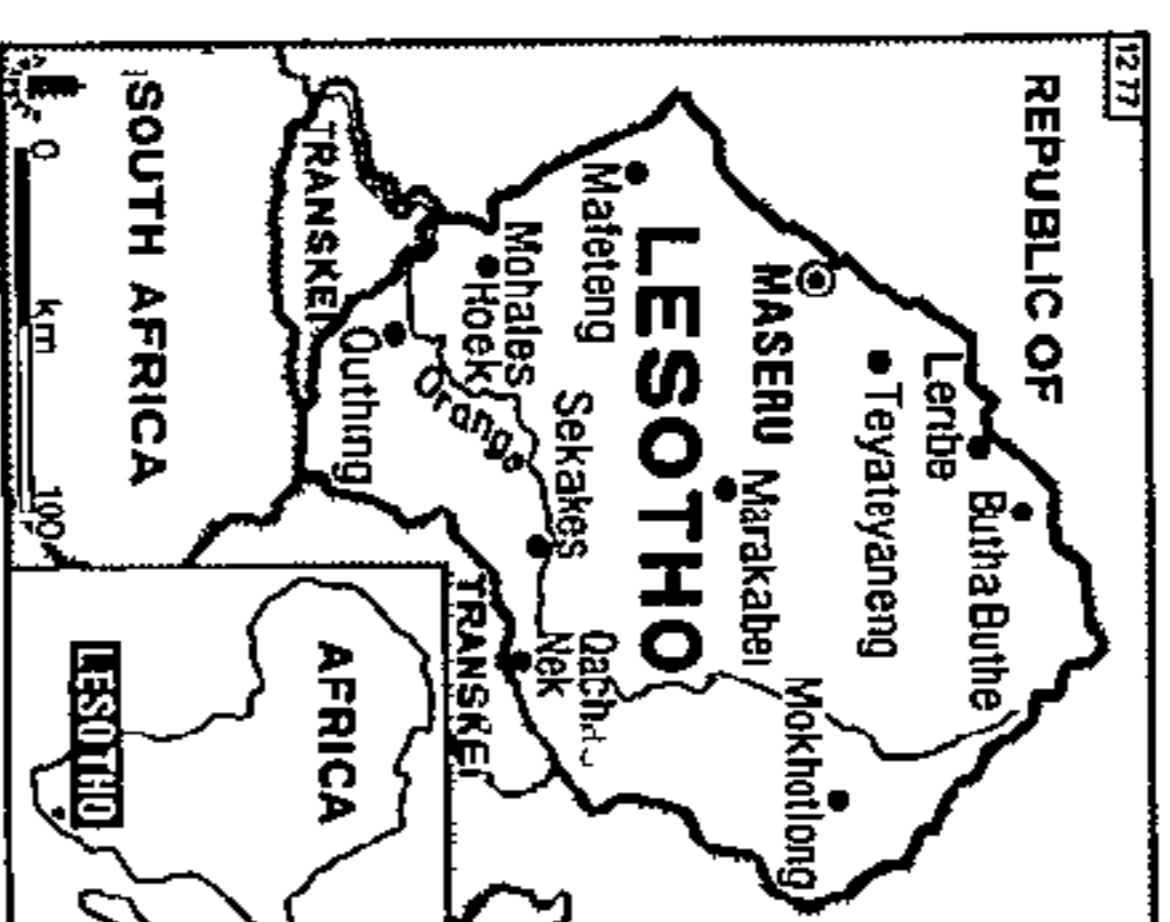
By succumbing to South Africa's pressure so rapidly, Lesotho has also demonstrated that any economic boycott of South Africa would have disastrous repercussions for its economy and those of South Africa's other neighbouring countries.

Relations between South Africa and Lesotho reached a low point after Maseru recently called for a meeting of the United Nations Security Council to blame South Africa for the killing of six South Africans and three Basotho in Maseru on December 19.

At Lesotho's instigation the Security Council adopted a resolution condemning South Africa for the killing of the nine, six of which have since been confirmed as being ANC members.

South Africa has denied responsibility for the killings and has instead used Lesotho's allegations to support its closing the border.

While saying that he did not believe the assailants responsible for the shootings were from South Africa, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Pk Botha, said the fact that South Africa was blamed made it urgent that it ensured that such ele-



ments did not cross into Lesotho.

However, he said the most urgent reason for restricting border traffic was the South African Government's responsibility to ensure the security of its citizens by cutting the access of terrorists to its territory.

South Africa has periodically claimed that Lesotho not only gives sanctuary to ANC guerrillas but that the organisation uses Lesotho to train its personnel and to plan its operations.

Use is allegedly also made of the weekly flight between Maseru and Maputo in Mozambique to send ANC recruits for extensive terror training before being returned to Lesotho for infiltration back into South Africa.

Soviet influence

South African sources say furthermore that they are increasingly edgy by what is perceived to be the growing Soviet influence over the Lesotho Government. They cite the fact that there are more Soviet diplomatic personnel in Maseru than there are American diplomats in the whole of South Africa as evidence.

The Lesotho radio station is also said to broadcast large doses of pro-Soviet propaganda.

In South African security circles it is rumoured that certain senior Lesotho cabinet ministers are card-carrying members of the Communist Party and that should they come to power they would put Lesotho at Moscow's disposal.

Lesotho has always insisted that it gives sanctuary to political refugees only, and that it does not permit the use of its soil to plan and launch attacks on South Africa.

On the contrary, it accuses South Africa of supporting destabilisation of Lesotho and it claims that the Lesotho National Liberation Army (LNL), which has claimed responsibility for sporadic acts of violence in Lesotho, is no more than an extension of the South African Defence Force.

Lesotho has rejected the assertion that the current clampdown on the border between the two countries was prompted by the threat of ANC terrorism from its soil.

It claims that South Africa has failed to respond to its request for detailed information about alleged ANC activities to enable it to make appropriate investigations.

The clampdown is instead a retaliation for Lesotho's refusal to hand over political refugees and for the Security Council resolution, it says.

Mr Botha denies that there is any retaliation, or that South Africa is boycotting or blocking Lesotho.

According to a source in his department, the border restrictions will remain in force until the two countries sit down to thrash out their differences on security problems.

The Minister said yesterday that a decision on the relaxation of the restrictions would be taken after he had consulted with the President and his colleagues.

He admitted yesterday that the South African Government had no hard evidence that there were any ANC activists still in Lesotho or that there was any evidence of complicity of the Lesotho Government with the ANC. (Although on the basis of evidence at its disposal in August, South Africa had been keen to raid Lesotho but it was persuaded to rather talk to the Maseru government by Britain and the US, he said.)

In spite of there being no recent evidence of ANC activities in Lesotho, the South African Government seeks an agreement that in principle neither side would use its territory for the planning or launching of violence against the other. There should also be a joint liaison committee to investigate allegations of violations and any actual violations of the agreement, and to deal with any other obstacles which might jeopardise relations between the countries.

Supplies and tempers run short as
 'total blockade' bites deeper

Lesotho ai

From GARY VAN STADEN
 Argus Africa News Service

MASERU. — Lesotho officials were compiling a list of essential supplies today as the country's diplomats tried to organise an emergency airlift to offset the "total blockade" by South Africa.

The list is expected to be complete by tomorrow

At a Press conference here yesterday Mr Desmond Sixishe, Minister of Information and Broadcasting, said he hoped the airlift of food and other essential commodities would begin as soon as friendly countries and international organisations responded to Lesotho's appeal for aid

The South African actions amounted to a "total blockade" and nothing was coming in

The government had decided to freeze transportation and to take control of petrol supplies

Air corridor

Lesotho was also discussing with the United Nations the concept of an internationally guaranteed air corridor

However, he added "We have air rights in this region South Africa does not control our air space"

Lesotho has bowed to South African pressure for a new approach to joint security It has accepted a proposal for the extension of the liaison committee between the countries to include a sub-committee on security and has asked for immediate talks with South Africa

Lesotho hopes these talks will induce South Africa to drop the security arrangements which have reduced to a trickle the flow of essential goods into Maseru

Mr Sixishe said Lesotho had appointed a delegation for talks with South Africa

There was a shortage of medical supplies and South Africa had apparently stopped handling mail to and from Lesotho

Five held

He also confirmed that the five opposition leaders who held talks last week with Mr Pik Botha, the South African Minister of Foreign Affairs, had been detained

Yesterday Radio Lesotho claimed the five had not only urged the South Africans to tighten the blockade but had given them information on how the government of Chief Leabua Jonathan could be toppled.

Vehicles are being held up on the South African side at the Maseru bridge border post for up to 24 hours and rail traffic is at a standstill

Yesterday police searched all vehicles, which moved at a snail's pace — in some cases only 80 metres during the day

Many Maseru residents abandoned their vehicles and walked across the border Most drivers spent the night in their vehicles — for some it was the second in a row

A lorry driver arrived at 8am yesterday Ten hours later his vehicle had moved less than twice its length

Free State and Natal towns are also feeling the pinch

● Tiny Lesotho vulnerable — Page 15.



Streams of vehicles wait to pass through the border between South Africa and Lesotho.

Controls likely to be eased soon

By DAVID BRAUN
 Political Staff

SOUTH Africa is expected to ease the restrictions on the border with Lesotho over the next day or so, but the situation will not return to normal until security talks between the two countries are under way

Meanwhile the British Ambassador, Sir Patrick Moberly, has requested an appointment with the Deputy-Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Ron Miller, today to convey his Britain's protest against South Africa's closure of the border and the resulting hardship for Lesotho

The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Pik Botha, has already responded to this protest, saying that if Britain is concerned about the stricter border measures then doubtless it is also concerned about the reasons for them

The contents of the protest were announced in the House of Commons yesterday

He reiterated his statement that the measures were because Lesotho was prepared to accommodate terrorists and that it allowed terrorists to travel to and from Lesotho to

commit violence against South Africans

"I would welcome it if the British government could approach the Lesotho government on this important matter. At the same time it can also put pressure on the Lesotho government to hold free elections," Mr Botha said.

CABINET

The Minister told a news conference yesterday that the border measures would not be lifted until he had consulted President Botha and his Cabinet colleagues responsible for security

It is expected that these consultations will take place today and that the border restrictions will be eased

However, South African sources have said the border situation cannot be normalised until South Africa and Lesotho have concluded a satisfactory security agreement

AFRICAN
 NEWS
 SERVICE

Shortage of supplies because of 'blockade' by SA

LESOTHO SQUEEZE



PREMIER Leabua Jonathan

DELAYS at South Africa's border with Lesotho have forced the mountain kingdom to take drastic action to conserve its dwindling petrol supplies

Yesterday the Lesotho Government decided to requisition all petrol supplies and to 'ground' all government transport because of a 'blockade' by South Africa

Lesotho's first Cabinet meeting of the year was dominated by the crisis brought on by the South African decision to intensify its security arrangements along the border

After the meeting a government spokesman said that it was vital to conserve petrol supplies in Lesotho because South Africa had placed a "total embargo" on oil supplies to the country. The South African Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Pk Botha, yesterday denied allegations that the Republic was blockading Lesotho, saying delays at the border were caused by the need to examine vehicles thoroughly for "terrorist" weapons

Pressure

The country has finally succumbed to South African pressure to hold joint talks on mutual security problems after years of wrangling between the two countries over the issue

A message sent from Maseru late on Monday afternoon said that Lesotho agreed to a South African proposal that a special sub-committee on security be set up as part of the existing bilateral liaison committee between the countries

A spokesman for the South African Department of Foreign Affairs said yesterday however that Lesotho's "positive reaction" did not mean that border restrictions between the two countries would be

Border delay

'Looking for weapons'

SOWETAN 15/1/86

SOWETAN Correspondent

immediately relaxed. This is precisely what we want to talk about. I can see no reason why the two countries should not hold talks in the near future, he said.

Pretoria decided to restrict border traffic to and from Lesotho from January 1 after Maseru failed to respond to repeated requests for security talks.

At first the restric-

tions were applied to Lesotho nationals trying to enter South Africa with only those with jobs on South African mines and industries being allowed in.

In recent days vehicles and trains leaving South Africa have also been thoroughly searched resulting in lengthy delays in deliveries and reports of shortages of various goods in the

Lesotho capital, including fuel.

The five Lesotho opposition leaders who held talks in Pretoria with Mr Pk Botha over the border dispute between the two countries were detained by Lesotho security police yesterday, reports Sapa.

This was confirmed by Lesotho's Minister of Information and Broadcasting Mr Desmond Sixishe at a Press conference in Maseru.

Raditsela assaulted, magistrate is told

TRADE unionist Mr Andries Raditsela was assaulted by police while being arrested on May 4 last year, a witness told a Johannesburg inquest magistrate yesterday.

Mr Nelson Thabethe (19) of Tsakane was testifying at the inquest into the death of Mr Raditsela (29) who died at Baragwanath Hospital on May 6 after he was released from detention on May 4.

Mr Raditsela, formerly of Tsakane, was a senior shop steward of the Chemical Workers Industrial Union (CWIU) and vice chairman of the Transvaal re-

By **NKOPANE MAKOBANE**

gion of the now defunct Federation of South African Trade Unions (Fosatu). Mr Thabethe said he saw a policeman slap Mr Raditsela in the face. Earlier Mr Thabethe told the court that the night before May 4, he had attended a birthday party at the home of Peter Oupa Ragoadi, one of the witnesses at the hearing. He had found Mr Raditsela and other people at the party.

After the party they and two friends drove in

Mr Raditsela's car to a shebeen in KwaThema. They drank until the early hours of the morning and then returned to Tsakane.

There they decided to stop at Anna Mnguni's place where Mr Raditsela bought more liquor.

Three army hippos arrived at the shebeen and the officers asked whose car was parked outside.

Mr Raditsela said it was his. He was asked for the car's documents which he produced.

At this stage two police hippos had arrived on the scene. Shortly thereafter Mr

To Page 2

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SOW 15-1-86

Lesotho, SA to set up security committee

Cape Times 15/1/86
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By ANTHONY JOHNSON

Political Correspondent

LANDLOCKED Lesotho yesterday buckled under the intense pressure of a South African-imposed border clampdown and agreed to set up a special joint frontier security committee to curb guerilla activities.

With the embattled mountain kingdom virtually crippled since January 1 by curbs on border traffic — including medical supplies, petrol and food — the government yesterday sought to arrange an international airlift of essential commodities and ordered the commandeering of all remaining petrol supplies in the country for essential services

Relaxed

The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Pik Botha, announced at a press conference at D F Malan Airport yesterday that Lesotho had finally acceded to the setting up of an anti-terrorist security committee and that officials from Maseru were anxious to hold discussion on the new body "as soon as they can cross the border"

Mr Botha warned that the Lesotho decision did not mean that border controls would now be relaxed. He would have to consult with President P W Botha and with his cabinet colleagues "and a decision will then be taken"

Mr Botha described the clampdown, which has plunged Lesotho into a state of near siege for the past fortnight, as

necessary to prevent the "killing of South Africans" as a result of the free passage of ANC "terrorists" and their arms out of Lesotho.

He said that despite "proof" he supplied to the Lesotho Government last August that "a large number of ANC terrorists" were being trained in that country, it was his impression that the the Lesotho Government had "done nothing".

Mr Botha denied that the Republic was now engaging in "retaliatory action" against Lesotho or that a blockade had been imposed

Rather, the restrictions represented a bid to secure the border to prevent a repetition of incidents like the recent bomb in Amanzimtoti

"South Africa does not believe in economic boycotts," he declared

● UPI reports that in Lesotho yesterday petrol was available only for military and emergency services. Supermarkets were reported to have run out of frozen foods and some basic supplies

Radio reports indicated that South African border officials were letting cars through at the rate of one an hour, but trains were being held up indefinitely and fuel-tankers were not being allowed through

The reports also said that the South Africans were allowing only contracted mine workers to cross the frontier

Sapa-Reuter reports that Britain said yesterday that it took a serious

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From page 167

brought down by pressure from South Africa". The radio said the men had also offered themselves as the alternative government in the event of "an economic blockade succeeding to bring the government of Lesotho down"

The opposition leaders are Mr Charles Molapo, a former cabinet minister, Mr Seisa Nqokane, of the Basotho Democratic Alliance, Mr Bennett Khaketla, president of the opposition Marematlou Freedom Party, Mr Charles Molefi, leader of the opposition United Democratic Party, and Mr Gerard Ramoreboli, head of the opposition Basotholand Congress Party

Referring to the arrests, Mr Botha said "The only thing they asked me was to relax the border controls. I can't see for the life of me how that can constitute a crime"

view of the South African border restrictions against Lesotho, saying "we do not believe that problems between South Africa and Lesotho can be resolved by coercion"

● Sapa reports from Maseru that Lesotho's Minister of Information, Mr Desmond Sixishoe, announced yesterday at a press conference that five Lesotho opposition leaders who held talks with Mr Pik Botha last week had been arrested by security police

State-controlled Radio Lesotho said in repeated broadcasts that the men had "not only encouraged the South African authorities to tighten the blockade on Lesotho but they had also provided the South African Government with advice on how the government of Lesotho could be

Lesotho Govt Seizes all petrol

15/1/86
Mercury
167

Rain frolic in bid to beat the heat

Temperature level rises above danger point

Temperature level rises above danger point

have already had two very hot days in the Midlands and today is a real snorter. We should know by tomorrow what the mortality situation is.

Durban residents sweltered as the heatwave blistering the province entered its second day. Temperatures soared throughout the greater Durban area with Durban recording a summer high of 33C.

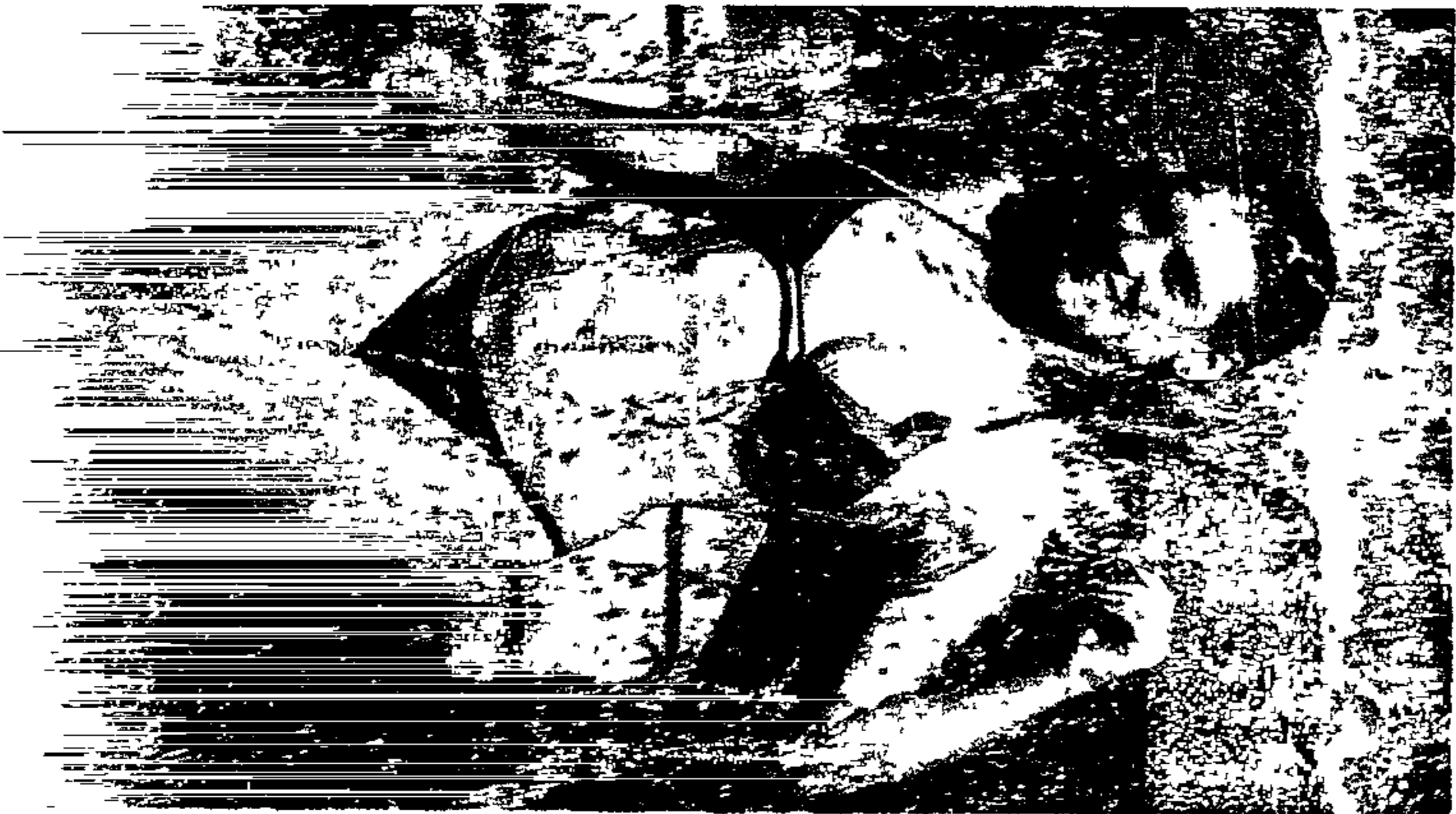
In spite of the discomfort index breaking through the danger level of 110 there were no reports of heat related cases at Addington Hospital's Casualty Department yesterday.

Addington Hospital's Medical Superintendent, Dr. Ralph McCarter, said it would be extremely unwise for people to jog in such weather.

Factors

The Deputy Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Robert Brown, said there was no official discomfort level at which it became mandatory for employers to send their workers home. 'The level of discomfort experienced depends very much on particular circumstances and many factors will play a part, including location, and whether or not the building is air-conditioned or has fans operating,' said Dr. Brown.

A discomfort level of 110 is generally considered dangerous and at this point school principals at their discretion,



THE Lesotho Government commandeered all petrol supplies in the country and imposed fuel rationing yesterday, the day it agreed to set up a joint monitoring commission with South Africa to deal with border problems.

ORMANDE POLLOK Political Correspondent

At the same time the British Government appealed to South Africa to lift what it termed the blockade of Lesotho and open talks our London Bureau reports.

The Junior Foreign Office Minister responsible for South Africa Mrs. Linda Chalker said yesterday. 'We are making known to the South African Government our concern that the restriction on border traffic should be lifted and that both sides should embark on a dialogue to resolve their differences without delay.'

Revealed

Mrs Chalker told the House of Commons she knew of no justification for South African action in tightening border inspections to prevent infiltration of ANC terrorists.

Foreign Minister P. Botha announced an agreement with Lesotho yesterday to establish a commission and said he would have to discuss present controls with President Botha and other Cabinet colleagues.

He denied South Africa had imposed a blockade or boycott and blamed the current strict controls measures on the Lesotho Government's lack of action against

ANC terrorists.

Dealing with reports that food and medical supplies were not getting through and that people who needed medical treatment in South Africa were not being allowed to cross the border, Mr Botha said this had never been the intention of the stricter controls.

'We will look into the matter immediately,' he said.

He revealed that in August he had supplied the Lesotho Government with the names, and even room numbers of ANC terrorists who were being given crash courses in Lesotho in the use of hand grenades and explosives.

His impression was that the Lesotho Government had done nothing about the matter and the stricter border controls were instituted to prevent these elements returning South Africa.

The South African Government also had evidence of large numbers of terrorists being trained in Lesotho and

Sentence on doctor who was late is set aside

Pietermaritzburg Bureau

SUPREME Court review judges here yesterday set aside the conviction of a local district surgeon, fined R20 for arriving eight minutes late to testify in a magistrate's court case.

P.T.O. →

Lesotho Govt seizes all petrol supplies

* FROM PAGE 1

ment

However, there was an agreement that neither country would allow its territory to be used by terrorists for attacks on the other.

He said he hoped that rumours of the arrest of Lesotho opposition leaders who recently came to see him were incorrect.

They had merely asked for the stricter controls on the borders to be relaxed and he did not see how this could constitute a crime.

Lesotho's Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Mr Desmond Sixishe, confirmed in a telephone interview with our political reporter that the Lesotho Government had taken all petrol stocks held by dealers and was controlling distribution.

Shortages

'All Government transport has been halted except for essential services,' he said.

Mr Sixishe said no goods were crossing the border between South Africa and Lesotho and the country was already experiencing shortages of perishable goods.

Lesotho had asked to hold talks with the South African Government last Friday but was still awaiting a reply.

Asked what he thought South Africa wanted of

Lesotho, he said 'I think they want us to return refugees to South Africa.'

And they want to choose what diplomatic missions are allowed in Lesotho. They don't want the Russian, Chinese or Korean embassies here.'

He said the Lesotho Government would stick to its policy of not allowing anyone to use Lesotho as a base for attacks against South Africa.

'We know we are vulnerable. It would be suicide for us to allow something like that.'

But Lesotho could not comply with any demand that refugees be returned to South Africa.

'We are a signatory to an international convention which says one cannot send refugees back to an area of conflict from which they are running.'

South Africa should prevent refugees from entering Lesotho by policing its own borders, Mr Sixishe said.

'We don't invite the refugees here, and we cannot police all our borders.'

But South Africa wants us to do its police work. We co-operate with South Africa on criminal cases such as car theft and stock theft, but this is political.'

Sapa reported yesterday that five Lesotho opposition leaders who held talks in Pretoria with the South African Minister of

Foreign Affairs over the border dispute had been detained by Lesotho security police yesterday.

This was confirmed by Mr Sixishe at a Press conference in Maseru. He gave no details.

The men returned to Lesotho on Monday night after spending several days in Pretoria.

State-controlled Radio Lesotho said in repeated broadcasts that the men had not only encouraged the South African authorities to tighten the blockade on Lesotho but had also provided the South African Government with advice on how the Government of Lesotho could be brought down by pressure from South Africa.

The radio said the five men had also offered themselves as an alternative government in the event of 'an economic blockade succeeding in bringing the Government of Lesotho down.'

The opposition leaders are Mr Charles Molapo, a former Cabinet minister, Mr Seisa Ngokane, of the Basotho Democratic Alliance, Mr Bennett Khaketla, president of the opposition Marematlou Freedom Party, Mr Charles Moteli, leader of the opposition United Democratic Party and Mr Gerard Ramoreboli, head of the opposition Basotholand Congress Party.

It's bed and bored for those who wait

STAR 15/11/88 (167)

By Gary van Staden,
Argus Africa News Service

MASERU — There was no pot of gold at the end of the rainbow which appeared over Maseru yesterday evening — like everything else it was held up at the border

"I am going to leave my car here and walk across," a woman from Maseru said "My children will be worried if I don't come home tonight"

The woman — like many other motorists — had already spent most of the day in her car waiting to cross the border into Lesotho

An exasperated truck-driver said he arrived at the Maseru Bridge border at 8 am yesterday Almost 10 hours later his vehicle had moved less than twice its own length

Two German tourists finally crossed into Lesotho at about 6 30 pm yesterday after having arrived at 3 am "We were lucky," one of them said "We jumped the queue past some of the trucks

"It's taking them up to two hours to search one truck so it is very slow going," he added

In the queue was a truck loaded with paint and other builders' supplies The "speed freight" labels on some of the goods were looking a little dusty after 10 hours at the border post

"I arrived here just before six," said another driver in a truck full of gas bottles "And it doesn't look like I will make it over today"

A man from Soweto, who called himself Paulus, arrived shortly before 6 pm yesterday with a light truck full of furniture When told he could expect to cross the border in 24 hours' time he made quick alternative arrangements "I am going to offload all this furniture just here and phone the man in Maseru to come and pick it up"

But, for the most part, truck drivers, tourists and local residents complained little about the long delay although most could not understand why it was happening



Many people eventually choose to cross the Lesotho border on foot and leave their vehicles on the South African side.

SA may be ready to relax 'blockade' of Lesotho

STAR 15/11/86 (167)

Emergency airlift planned

The Star's Africa News Service

MASERU — Lesotho government officials were compiling a list of essential supplies today as the country's diplomats tried to organise an emergency airlift to offset the current South African "blockade"

It is expected the list will be complete by tomorrow

At a Press conference here yesterday, Mr Desmond Sixishe, the Minister of Information and Broadcasting, said he hoped the airlift of food and other essential commodities would start as soon as friendly countries and international organisations responded to Lesotho's appeal for aid.

Lesotho was also discussing with the United Nations the concept of an internationally-guaranteed air corridor as a link with the rest of the

world

But, he added, "We have air rights in this region — South Africa does not control our air space"

As the effects of the South African "blockade" become increasingly evident in Lesotho, the Lesotho Government has bowed to South African pressure for a new approach to joint security.

It has accepted the proposal for the extension of the present liaison committee between the two countries to include a special sub-committee on security matters and it has asked for immediate talks with the South African Government.

Mr Sixishe said Lesotho had already appointed a delegation for the talks with South Africa on mutual security matters but, he added, Lesotho found it difficult to "do police work for South Africa"

By David Braun, Political Correspondent

Cape Town

A decision on easing the "blockade" of Lesotho is imminent.

South Africa is expected to relax the severe restrictions on the border with Lesotho within days, but the situation will not return to normal until security talks between the two countries are under way

British Ambassador Sir Patrick Moberly has requested an appointment with Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Ron Miller this morning to convey his government's protest at South Africa's closure of the border and the resulting hardship for Lesotho

Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Pik Botha has already responded to this protest in a report published in a Cape Town newspaper, saying that if Britain is concerned about the stricter border measures, then doubtless it is also concerned about the reasons for them

The contents of the protest were announced in the British House of Commons yesterday

Mr Botha reiterated his statement that the border measures had been instituted because Lesotho was prepared to accommodate terrorists and allow them to travel to and from Lesotho to commit violence against South African citizens

Question of free elections

Mr Botha would welcome it if the British Government could approach the Lesotho Government on this important matter. At the same time, he can also put pressure on the Lesotho Government to hold free elections, said Mr Botha

Mr Botha told a Press conference yesterday that the border measures would not be lifted until he had consulted President Botha and Cabinet colleagues responsible for security

It is expected that these consultations will take place sometime today and that the border restrictions will be eased

But sources have pointed out that the border situation cannot be normalised until South Africa and Lesotho have concluded a satisfactory security agreement

• See Page 4

All petrol supplies to be requisitioned (167)

MASERU — The Lesotho Government decided yesterday to requisition all petrol supplies in the mountain kingdom and to "ground" all government transport because of the South African "blockade"

Lesotho's first Cabinet meeting of the year was dominated by the crisis brought on by the South African decision to intensify its security arrangements along the border

After the meeting a government spokesman said that it was vital to preserve petrol supplies in Lesotho because South Africa had placed a 'total embargo' on oil supplies to the country



Long hours in a long queue. Trucks and cars wait to enter Lesotho yesterday. Many people waited the whole day to cross the border.

Lesotho coup denied

16/1/80
 (16/1)
 DIS

Dispatch Correspondents

MASERU — **Combat troops swarmed through Lesotho's capital yesterday as the cabinet met in emergency session over the country's state of crisis**

The Information Minister Mr Desmond Sixshe categorically denied persistent rumours that a coup attempt had been made, but this failed to douse speculation. He described the action as a routine military exercise.

Eyewitnesses said earlier that the troops, in armoured personnel carriers and jeeps, surrounded the offices of the Prime Minister, Chief Leabua Jonathan, and chased all the workers out.

Reporters said they had heard firing. There were claims in Maseru yesterday that the military action, apparently led by Paramilitary Force Commander General Lekhanaga, was to press home an army demand for the sacking of an unidentified cabinet minister and the disbandment of the ruling Basotho National Party's youth league.

The offices of the youth wing of the BNP were reportedly raided in yesterday's action, and all weapons were removed.

The army chose yesterday to strike back at the youth wing, with which it has serious differences, with Lesotho choking in the grip of South Africa's 16-day construction of fresh food, fuel and medical supplies.

Other reports quoted diplomatic sources as saying the military activity might have been a show of strength by elements of the Lesotho paramilitary force unhappy with government handling of the crisis with South Africa.



They said Chief Jonathan and senior paramilitary officers held talks with King Moshoeshoe II at the royal palace early yesterday afternoon.

around the Prime Minister's offices was scaled back last night, apparently as a result of the talks, they added. By late yesterday afternoon the troops surrounding the Prime Minister's offices had returned to their barracks and only a few guards remained on duty.

Attempting to still rumours of a coup, Mr Sixshe said the morning's activity was a routine military security exercise, then said there had been a bomb scare at the offices.

Troops outside the offices of the Prime Minister, Chief Leabua Jonathan, in Maseru yesterday.

Mr Sixshe said it was obvious from the comments made by Foreign Minister P.K. Botha on Tuesday night that South Africa wants Lesotho to hand over all political refugees.

It was also reported that many South Africans and citizens of the Republic of China doing business in Maseru are leaving the country in Lesotho have been told to leave the country if they want to avoid getting hurt.

Meanwhile, fighter controls on the South African side of the border continued to bite yesterday. It took nine hours for a load of animal feed to pass through the Maseru border post.

Amid petrol rationing and the strong possibility of further rationing of essential foodstuffs, it was revealed that substantial amounts of aid had been pledged by Eastern Bloc countries.

Sapa reports from Cape Town that a spokesman for the British embassy confirmed that the ambassador, Sir Patrick Moberly, yesterday morning called on the South African Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Ron Miller, over the Republic's clampdown on the Lesotho border.

The meeting came after Chief Jonathan sent an appeal to the British Prime Minister, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, over the border restrictions, which South Africa says are merely an attempt to ensure that no ANC insurgents enter the Republic.

The spokesman said yesterday the purpose of Sir Patrick's visit, which was "on instructions from London," was "to express the view that we hope that the restrictions on border traffic between South Africa and Lesotho would be lifted and that both sides should embark on dialogue to resolve their differences."

In Cape Town, a spokesman for the Department of Foreign Affairs said yesterday that a meeting of senior government officials from Lesotho and South Africa will probably take place in Pretoria "within the next few days."

SA, Lesotho to talk but border clamp stays

ARGUS 16/1/86

167

By TOS WENTZEL, Political Correspondent

SOUTH Africa and Lesotho will meet tomorrow or on Monday to discuss the establishment of a special joint frontier security commission — but in the meantime the strict measures on the border will continue.

This was stated today by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Pik Botha

Further tension built up today as South Africa sent a telex to Maseru criticising the arrest of five opposition leaders of that country on allegations that at a meeting with Mr Botha last Friday they had asked for the intensification of the strict border measures.

South Africa sharply denied this and said the men had in fact asked for the measures to be relaxed or lifted. They had stated that ordinary Basothos who were suffering because of the measures

In view of what the opposition leaders had asked for and their subsequent detention, South Africa wondered if Lesotho disagreed with requests for the lifting of border restrictions, especially as Lesotho itself had not made any such requests

Mr Botha said today that confusing reports had been received about events in Maseru yesterday and he declined to express an opinion on what had happened

CLARIFICATION

Before the latest telex was sent to Lesotho, South Africa also replied to the acceptance by Lesotho of the proposal for a joint frontier commission.

South Africa is demanding clarification as to whether joint decisions taken by a commission will have official status which will ensure their implementation

In previous negotiations through a commission Lesotho had at times maintained that decisions did not have official status because only officials took part in the deliberations.

South Africa has now proposed that this matter be cleared up at the first meeting of the new commission

THE RIGHT

Mr Botha said Lesotho had the right to arrest its own citizens, but in view of the facts he felt South Africa had a moral obligation to comment on this occasion

● The Argus Africa News Service reports from Maseru that the Lesotho Government is battling today to come to grips with a critical situation amid the confusion generated by rumoured coups and yesterday's military action in Maseru

The economy is steadily being squeezed by the "blockade", petrol is rationed, goods are in short supply and the mail service has been disrupted

There are strong rumours in diplomatic circles that the military show of strength in Maseru yesterday was an indication that the army had either taken control or that it had forced the Government to act against the armed Lesotho Youth League of Chief Jonathan's party.

Some diplomats believe power has been placed in the hands of King Moshoeshe and that Chief Jonathan will remain as a figurehead. The King would then control the Cabinet

It has been reported that members of the ANC were being airlifted out of Maseru to Maputo and Lusaka

It is clear that South Africa will not relax its "blockade" until it is satisfied that Lesotho will take effective action against the ANC

● The Argus Foreign Service reports from London that the British Prime Minister, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, is to reply personally this week to Lesotho's request for aid over the "blockade" The British Ambassador to Pretoria, Sir Patrick Moberly, has visited the South African Department of Foreign Affairs to express Britain's concern

● The Argus Foreign Service in Washington reports that Chief Jonathan sent a message to President Ronald Reagan but that the US has been careful to avoid taking sides and is urging restraint

Maseru denies attempt at military coup

167

CAPE Times 16/1/86

Own Correspondent

MASERU. — Lesotho authorities denied reports of a coup yesterday as hundreds of heavily-armed combat troops swarmed through the capital, and said the troops were taking part in military exercises.

Diplomatic sources said the military activity might have been a show of strength by paramilitary forces unhappy with the government's handling of a crisis with South Africa.

Witnesses said earlier that troops in armoured personnel carriers and jeeps encircled the headquarters of the Prime Minister, Chief Leabua Jonathan, and forced workers out of the building.

Bomb scare

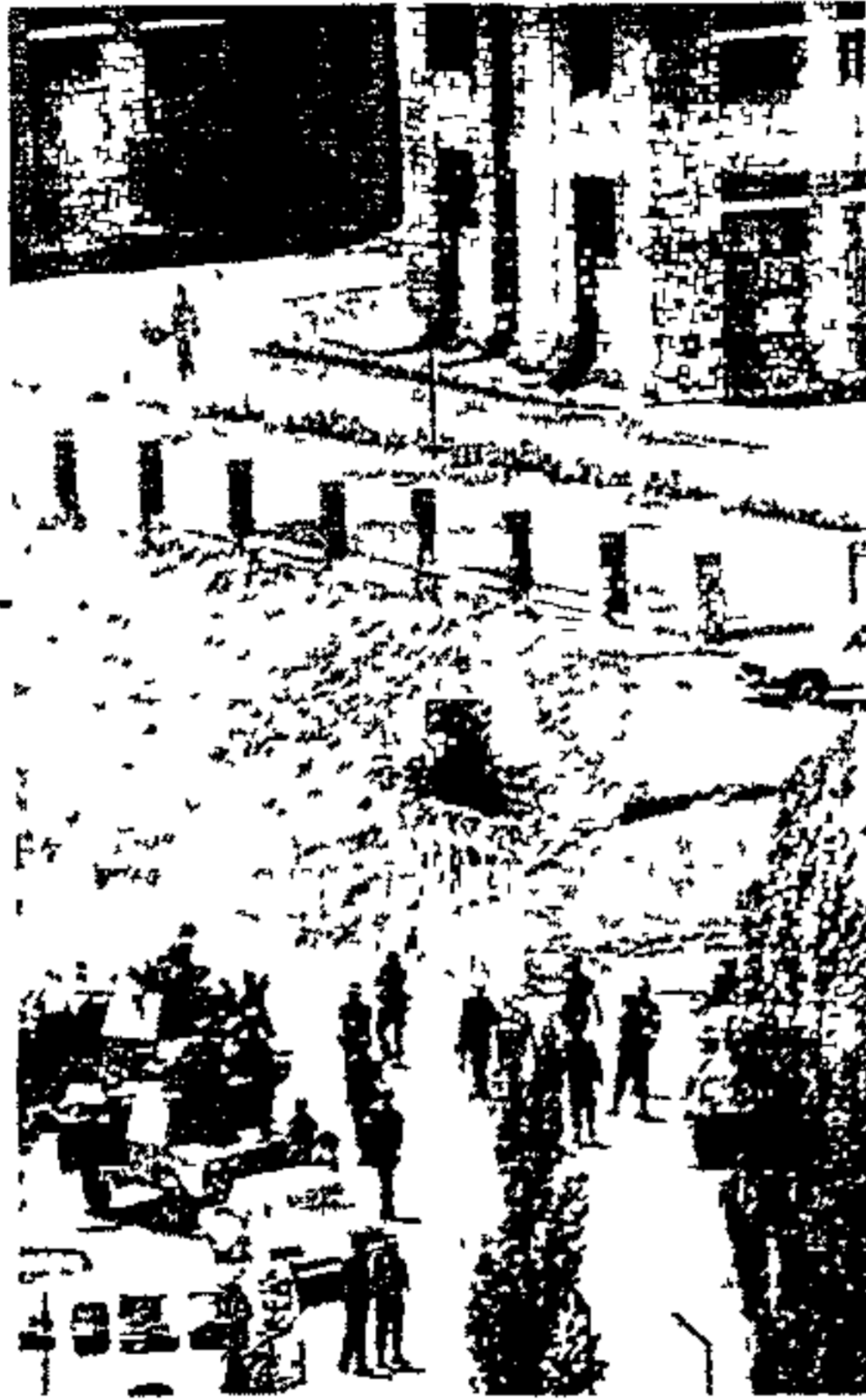
Later yesterday, amid persistent rumours of an attempted coup, Information Minister Mr Desmond Sixishe "categorically denied any coup attempt had been made, but this failed to douse speculation especially when he described the action as a "routine military exercise".

He then said there had been a bomb scare at the Prime Minister's offices.

Reuter reported that witnesses said there were pitched gun battles and one correspondent said he was held at gunpoint by soldiers who warned him they would shoot him dead. He was released unharmed.

It was learnt from reliable sources in Maseru yesterday that the military action, apparently led by Paramilitary Force Commander, General Lekhanya, was to press home an army demand for the sacking of an unidentified cabinet minister and the disbanding of the ruling Basotho National Party's youth league.

The offices of the



Heavily-armed troops massed outside Chief Leabua Jonathan's offices in Maseru yesterday

youth wing of the BNP were reportedly raided in yesterday's action. All weapons were removed from the offices.

Political sources said that the youth wing some of whose members are said to have been armed and trained by North Korea, has for weeks been making pub-

lic statements accusing members of the army of disloyalty to Chief Jonathan.

The army chose yesterday to strike back — at a time when Chief Jonathan needed it most — with his country choking in the grip of South Africa's 16-day constriction of fresh food, fuel and medical supplies to Lesotho.

Sources close to the military said several youth leaders were detained in yesterday's army crackdown.

By late yesterday afternoon the troops surrounding the Prime Minister's offices had returned to their barracks and only a few guards remained on duty.

Detention

The "military exercise" came a day after the detention of five prominent opposition leaders who met the South African Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Pik Botha, in Pretoria this week and, according to political sources apparently urged South Africa to intensify the blockade. South Africa has imposed on traffic to Lesotho.

Maseru was in a state of confusion yesterday. It took nine hours for a load of animal feed to pass through the Maseru border post.

Mr Sixishe said people

were frightened because they feared another attack by the SADF. He also said it was "obvious from the comments made by Mr Botha on Tuesday night that South Africa wants Lesotho to hand over all political refugees."

"This we cannot do", he said.

Amid petrol rationing and the strong possibility of further rationing of essential foodstuffs, it was disclosed that substantial amounts of aid had been pledged by Eastern Bloc countries.

Anthony Johnson reports that Mr Botha met President P W Botha yesterday to discuss the possible lifting of the blockade.

Hardship

No announcement had been made about the outcome of the meeting by last night but South Africa is expected to ease the restrictions.

Meanwhile the British Ambassador, Sir Patrick Moberley, met the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Ron Miller, yesterday to protest against South Africa's virtual closure of the border and the hardship this has caused Lesotho.

Earlier yesterday, Mr Botha responded to criticism delivered in the House of Commons saying that the measures were taken because Lesotho was prepared to accommodate terrorists bent on committing violence against South Africa.

According to a report from John Battersby in London the British Government was closely monitoring developments in Maseru last night but was not contemplating any action.

Airlift

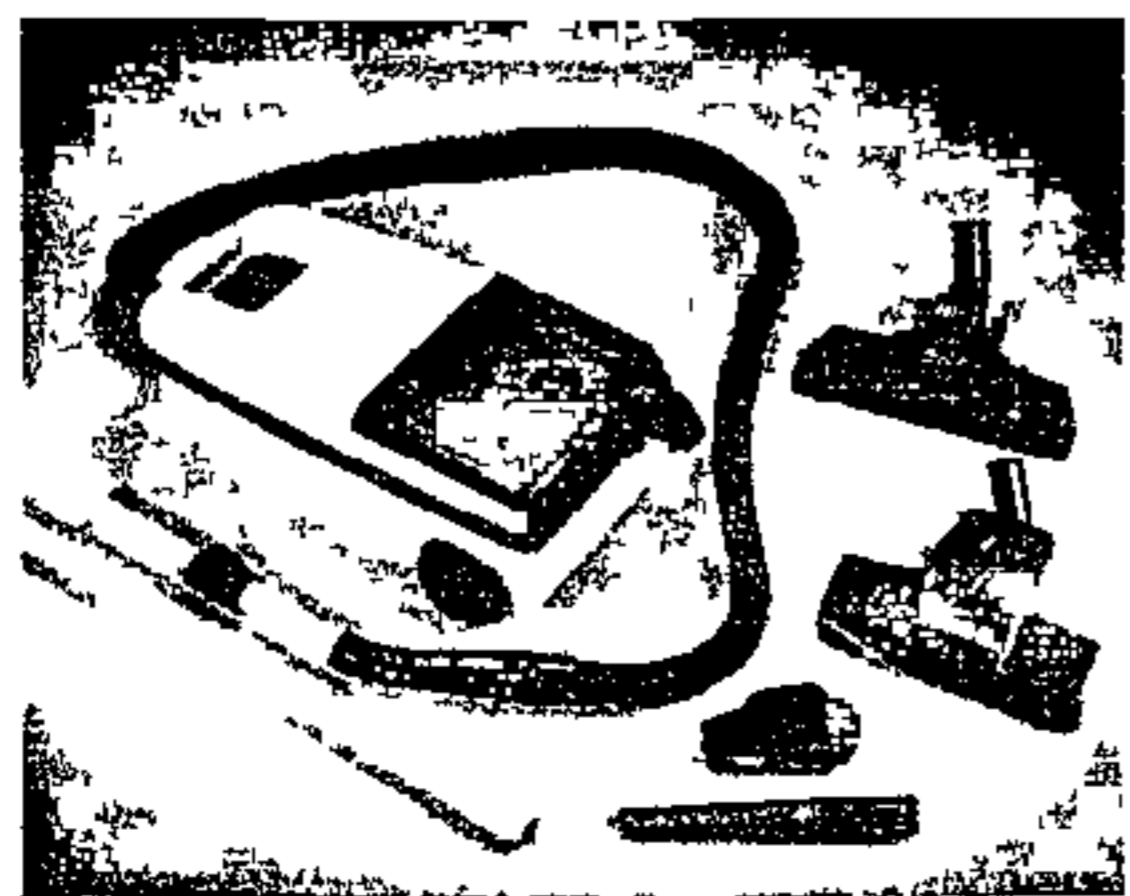
It appears that the situation in Maseru is returning to normal and the British representative there has assured us that there is no cause for alarm," a Foreign Office spokesman said.

The spokesman said last night that no request for an urgent airlift of essential supplies had been received from the Lesotho Government.

The British Government reaffirmed its call on Pretoria to enter into a dialogue with the Lesotho authorities to resolve their differences.

Meanwhile Sapa Reuter reports from Washington that the US Government also criticized South Africa for restricting movement across its border with Lesotho and said it was trying to persuade the two countries to hold talks to resolve the problem.

Well worth a trip to Tyger Valley for Parow



Lesotho, SA to meet on security

167
STAR 16/1/86

Cape Town

South Africa and Lesotho will meet tomorrow or on Monday to discuss the setting up of a special joint frontier security commission — but the strict measures on the border will continue in the meantime.

Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Pik Botha made this known today.

Further tensions were building up today after South Africa sent a telex to Maseru criticising the arrest of five opposition Lesotho political leaders on allegations that they asked for the stepping up of the border measures at a meeting with Mr Botha on Friday.

South Africa denies this. It says they asked for the measures to be relaxed or lifted.

Today the Lesotho Government is battling to come to grips with a critical situation amid the confusion generated by military action in Maseru and rumours of a coup.

Thatcher to reply to aid request

The Star Bureau

LONDON — British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher is to reply to Lesotho's request for aid over the South African "blockade" of the territory.

The announcement came after a day of high drama over Lesotho with intense speculation that there had been an attempted coup as journalists heard gunfire and paramilitary troops surrounded Chief Leabua Jonathan's palace.

Lesotho's High Commissioner in London, Mrs Malneo Tau, said there had been a "routine operation by the paramilitary".

Mrs Thatcher's letter to Chief Jonathan is to be sent this week.

Mrs Tau said Lesotho had not yet requested that Britain airlift supplies into Lesotho. "But we may have to do so. The situation is very serious," she said.

Chief Jonathan has sent a message to United States President Ronald Reagan about the dispute with South Africa.

In a carefully phrased statement, State Department spokesman Mr Charles Redman said "We are troubled by South Africa's restrictions on the movement of people and goods by the South Africa-Lesotho border."

"We are in close touch with both governments and we are encouraging both sides to meet and discuss their differences."

The Lesotho economy is steadily being squeezed by the effects of the South African security action on the borders.

Petrol is already being rationed, goods in shops are in short supply, and the mail has been disrupted.

In diplomatic circles there are strong rumours that the Lesotho Paramilitary Force show of strength in Maseru yesterday was an indication that it had either taken control or that it had forced the government to act against the ruling party's armed youth wing.

The youth wing has long been at loggerheads with the PMF. It has accused the PMF of disloyalty, while the PMF sees the young people as undisciplined, dangerous and a threat to its own position.

Among some diplomats there is the belief that power has been placed in King Moshoeshoe's hands, and that Chief Leabua Jonathan will remain as a figurehead Prime Minister.

There is also the belief that Minister of Information Ntseondiso Sixishe was operating under duress yesterday when he called a Press conference to say that there had been no coup and that the military action had been no more than an "exercise".

It has been reported that members of the ANC are being airlifted out of Maseru to Maputo and Lusaka, but this could not be confirmed.

● See Page 17.

Lesotho denies coup bid report

Sheba's lonely vigil over

Inspector Dougie Gates of the SPCA yesterday comforted Sheba, an abandoned dog sitting beside the body of a dead mule on the North Coast highway for more than a week. Sheba's lonely vigil ended yesterday when an SPCA official was forced to drug her to get away. She began a pin watch after her mauling over near Grouville. The dogs had been in the car of their owners, the Da Santos family from Bahlito, when it was involved in an accident and the animals had taken fright running off into the bush. The Da Santos searched the whole day but could not find the dogs and the next day the family moved to Nelspruit, asking friends to take up the search. Friends later spotted Sheba sitting beside the body of a mule, but every time they approached her she ran off, always returning to sit by her mate again. The friends fed the dog daily then called the SPCA on Tuesday when Insp Gates spent hours trying to win Sheba's friendship. But every time he went near she fled. 'Eventually I mixed a tranquilliser with some meat. I had to wait until she ate it and the pill took effect.' Sheba was taken back to the SPCA in a sorry state where she will be cared for until her owners collect her at the weekend.

Picture by
ALAN COXON

a little



Cricket officials

banking on crowd

MASERU—Troops swarmed through the capital yesterday as the Lesotho Cabinet met in emergency session over the country's state of crisis.

Amid persistent rumours of an attempted coup, Information Minister Desmond Sixsise 'categorically denied' any coup attempt, but this failed to douse speculation, especially when he described the action as a 'routine military exercise'.

Reliable sources here said the military action, apparently led by Pararmilitary Force Commander Gen Lekhanya, had been staged to press home an army demand for the sacking of an unidentified Cabinet minister and the disbandment of the ruling Basotho National Party's youth league.

The offices of the youth wing of the BNP were reportedly raided in yesterday's action and all weapons removed from them.

Political sources said there was a serious split between the youth wing of the BNP and the ruling clique.

The youth wing, some of whose members are said to have been armed and trained by North Korea, has for weeks been making public statements accusing members of the army of disloyalty to the Prime Minister.

The army chose yesterday to strike back at a time when Chhet Jona had needed it most, with his country choking in the grip of South Africa's 16-day construction of fresh food, fuel and medical supplies.

Sources close to the military said several youth leaders had been detained in yesterday's

Mercury Correspondent

Chief Jonathan was now under immense pressure to submit to the military will or face a revolt in the one organisation vital to sustaining his regime which has lingered for several years without an election, the sources said.

By late yesterday afternoon most of the troops surrounding the Prime Minister's offices had returned to their barracks and only a few guards remained on duty.

Attempting to stifle rumours of a coup, Mr Sixsise first said the morning's activity had been a 'routine military security exercise', then he said there had been a bomb scare at the Prime Minister's offices.

People had been frightened because they feared another attack by the SADF and the capital was thus in a state of confusion yesterday, he said.

Rationing

Amid petrol rationing and the strong possibility of further rationing of essential foodstuffs, it was revealed that substantial amounts of aid had been pledged by Eastern bloc countries but no positive response had been received from the US.

Our Cape Town correspondent reported that Foreign Affairs Minister, Mr Pit Botha discussed the Lesotho situation yesterday with President Botha and it was thought South Africa would ease border control measures. Meanwhile, the British ambassador, Sir Patrick

Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Ron Miller to protest South Africa's virtual closure of the border which he said was causing hardship to Lesotho.

It took nine hours yesterday for a load of animal feed to pass through the Maseru border post.

A Mercury reporter writes that Lesotho Airways was still running daily flights between Maseru and Johannesburg and Lesotho passport holders had no trouble entering South Africa at Jan Smuts Airport.

Many people who want to go elsewhere in South Africa, such as Bloemfontein, are flying to Johannesburg and then taking another flight from there, said a senior Lesotho Airways official.

See Editorial Opinion

Rebels

train fr

MAPUTO—Renamo rebels ger train travelling from zambique capital on Tuesday, said a senior Lesotho Airways official.

Quoting sources at the Railways, the agency said about 70 km north-west of

The rebels shot at the train and immobilised it. AIM said it had been among the injured. The agency, in another report on Monday hit powerlines the capital and the city via its coal-powered station.

Mercury
16/1/88
K119

SOWETAN

Y 16, 1986

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GREY PERSPECTIVES 42066/01146

COUP

Denials as army
vehicles move
into the
Lesotho capital

ATTEMPT

MASERU — There were fears of a coup in Lesotho yesterday after army units had moved into Maseru, the capital, surrounding the offices of the Prime Minister, Chief Leabua Jonathan.

Lesotho said hundreds of heavily-armed troops who had moved into Maseru were taking part in military exercises, and denied there had been a coup.

The Information Minister, Mr Desmond Sixshe, was called to an urgent Cabinet meeting after a Press conference here at which he said the government was continuing unchanged.

Eyewitnesses said earlier that the troops, in armoured personnel carriers and jeeps, surrounded the offices of the prime minister and chased all the workers out.

Reporters said they had heard firing in Maseru.

Lesotho says Pretoria is imposing a blockade amid a sharp deterioration in relations between the two countries.

Mr Sixshe said he did not know the purpose of the exercise but in response to questions he categorically denied there had been a coup.

State-run *Radio Lesotho* yesterday quoted a government spokesman as saying Chief Leabua Jonathan had re-

jected a demand by South Africa to exchange African National Congress refugees for members of the Lesotho Liberation Army, the military wing of the Basotho Congress Party dedicated to overthrowing him.

The chief saying Lesotho was "not in the business of trading in human beings," added that his government did not have ANC guerrillas and would not grant them bases in future, the radio reported.

It added that Lesotho welcomed political refugees from "liberation movements" in southern Africa, including white South Africans who had defected from Pretoria's army.

Proposals

Radio Lesotho quoted the spokesman as saying Chief Jonathan had also rejected the South African statement that Lesotho had agreed to some "unspecified" security arrangements with South Africa.

Lesotho had informed South Africa on January 10 it was willing to discuss whatever proposals Pretoria had the radio said.

A meeting of senior government officials from Lesotho and South Africa will probably take place in Pretoria "within the next few days," a spokesman for the SA Department of Foreign Affairs said yesterday — Sapa Reuter, SOWETAN Correspondents



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SOWETAN 16/1/86

CAP Tinks 17/1/86
167

Pretoria, Maseru to talk today

SOUTH AFRICA and Lesotho are to meet in Pretoria today in a bid to thrash out guidelines for a proposed joint frontier security committee to curb guerilla activity

However, South Africa's virtual blockade of Lesotho bit deeper yesterday and some drivers spent their third day waiting to cross into Lesotho

South Africa will be represented at today's meeting by senior officials of the departments of Foreign and Home Affairs, the National Intelligence Service, the SADF and the SAP

Lesotho yesterday accused the state-run SABC of creating speculation of an attempted military coup

An SATV team was kicked out of the country yesterday morning. The SABC said this followed a question about an alleged Maseru training centre for ANC members posed by a Netwerk presenter to the Information Minister, Mr Desmond Sixishe

Mr Sixishe said, however, that the team was expelled because the SABC had spread "false" rumours about the situation in the country.

Action followed 'bomb threat'

About 100 troops in personnel carriers and jeeps surrounded the office in Maseru of the Prime Minister, Chief Leabua Jonathan, for several hours on Wednesday. This action was described by Mr Sixishe as a security exercise after a "bomb threat"

At the Maseru Bridge border post yesterday, long lines of trucks stood on the South African side of the border and some drivers said they had been waiting for three days to cross while South African Police made painstaking searches of private cars

In Lesotho, "empty" signs went up at some petrol stations, supplies of drugs are being held up at the border and hospitals are fast exhausting stocks

● JOHN BATTERSBY reports from London that a British Foreign Office spokesman said yesterday that remarks attributed to Foreign Minister Mr Pik Botha and calling on Britain to intervene by putting pressure on the Maseru government to hold free elections "were not conveyed to the British Ambassador, Sir Patrick Moberly, when he called on the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs on Wednesday"

— Political Staff, Own Correspondent and Sapa

SA blockade of Lesotho puts West in a dilemma

Cape Times
17/1/86



London Dateline

JOHN BATTERSBY reports

SOUTH AFRICA'S slow strangulation of Lesotho, by applying stringent border controls, has presented the West with a dilemma

Significantly, Chief Leabua Jonathan's appeals for help, particularly an airlift of essential goods, have been directed at the two capitals where that dilemma is most intense Washington and Whitehall

Of all the Western countries involved in aid to South Africa's neighbours, it is Britain and the US alone which have repeatedly warned frontline states that there will be no special economic aid if they are hit by international sanctions

When Mrs Thatcher was fighting a lone battle against the rest of the Commonwealth in the Bahamas last October to stave off sanctions against SA, she reminded the frontline states of this in a letter and President Reagan sent a special envoy to Nassau to underline America's concurrence

At the same time both Mrs Thatcher and President Reagan are deeply concerned about the re-emergence of Pretoria's hardline destabilization tactics in the region and the escalation of the military struggle in the region

And both leaders are mindful of the enormous international respect for the small landlocked kingdom of Lesotho in resisting what is widely perceived as Pretoria's bully-boy tactics in imposing a de facto blockade against a small and defenceless neighbour

The warm reception accorded to King Moshoeshoe II by other Commonwealth leaders at the Bahamas summit was a recognition of Lesotho's brave stand

That must have been a major factor in Britain's prompt diplomatic response to Chief Jonathan's personal appeal to Mrs Thatcher for help

The new Minister of State in the Foreign Office responsible for South Africa, Mrs Lynda Chalker, lost no time in telling the House of Commons that Britain was appealing to South Africa to lift the border restrictions and enter into a dialogue with the Maseru government

Some sympathy

It now looks as though security talks between the two countries are on the cards and a showdown appears to have been averted

But what would have happened if South Africa had pushed its point a little further?

While Mrs Thatcher and President Reagan have some sympathy with Pretoria's efforts to prevent guerillas of the African National Congress from entering the country, they are fully aware that the ANC is likely to do this is at border posts of a rugged and unprotected border

This immediately exposes the South African Foreign Minister, Mr Pik Botha's, denial of a blockade and insistence that South Africa is merely applying stringent border checks to prevent further ANC infiltration

Britain and the US have so far been successful in urging South Africa not to resort to military retaliation against neighbouring states for recent landmine blasts on the borders.

What right, it could be argued, do they now have to prevent Pretoria from using its economic power to pressure neighbouring states to take more vigorous steps to flush out the ANC?

After all, it has been the thrust of President Reagan's foreign policy in the region to bolster a "reforming" South Africa as the regional superpower and persuade neighbouring states — Marxist and otherwise — to enter into security and economic arrangements with a view to stabilizing the region.

But Pretoria's point has been well taken in both seats of government it has taken a mere two weeks to bring Lesotho to its knees

This has illustrated graphically how vulnerable it, and other neighbouring states, would be if South Africa passed on the burden of international sanctions

Britain and the United States are reluctant to establish the principle of special aid to Southern African states which feel the whiplash of Pretoria's brinkmanship

It would establish a dangerous pre-

cedent and weaken the Western argument not to bail out states whose economies cannot endure the spin-off of sanctions

But if South Africa went all the way Washington and Whitehall would have little option but to make some gesture of support to the beleaguered Chief Jonathan

In this way Britain and the US could find themselves forced into a shift of emphasis in their constructive engagement policies which assume South Africa as the regional superpower

The timing of the de facto blockade on Lesotho is probably not coincidental

In the next few weeks four important events take place in Southern Africa which collectively could give a major boost to the sanctions campaign

First is a joint "forum" of the African, Caribbean and Pacific states and the European Parliamentary Assembly (ACP-EEC) due to take place in Swaziland towards the end of this month

Joint 'forum'

Everyone from the ANC's Oliver Tambo to KwaZulu's Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi and members of the SA government have been invited. (My sources tell me the ANC has turned down the invitation because Chief Buthelezi has been invited)

In early February there will be a meeting in Lusaka of foreign ministers and representatives of the 12 members of the expanded Common Market and frontline leaders under the chairmanship of Zambia's President Kenneth Kaunda

Mandatory sanctions against South Africa will be high on the agenda and both the EEC and Commonwealth members present will come under intense pressure to tighten the mild sanctions adopted so far

Later in February the Commonwealth's seven-strong Eminent Persons' Group (EPG) is expected to visit South Africa to begin its dialogue-and-peace mission before reporting on the need for tougher sanctions (Unless the EPG is allowed to meet Nelson Mandela the initiative might never get off the ground)

In the midst of this frenetic round of talks and missions the five-year-old Southern African Development Co-ordinating Conference (SADCC) will hold its annual conference in Harare on January 30 and 31 — the day President Botha is due to deliver his Rubicon II speech to the opening of Parliament

The SADCC — made up of the six frontline states and Lesotho, Swaziland and Malawi — will be under the chairmanship of Mr Robert Mugabe, the most outspoken frontline critic of Pretoria with his international standing enhanced by his chairmanship of the 101-nation Non-Aligned Movement

It is the SADCC conference that could prove the most devastating for Pretoria

In recent months there has been a dramatic shift by Britain, the United States and the World Bank towards the SADCC, whose political aim is to rid itself of economic dependence on South Africa

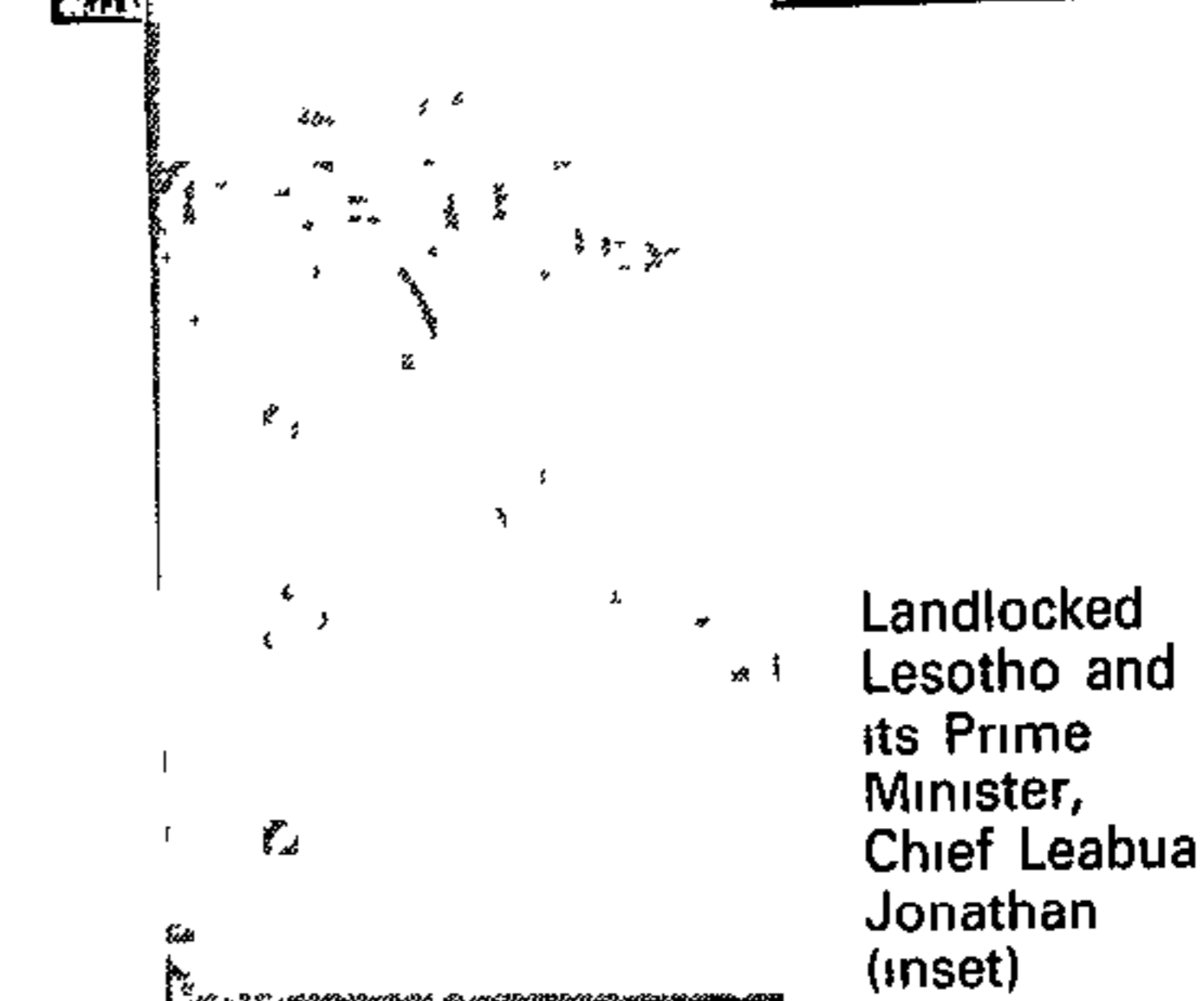
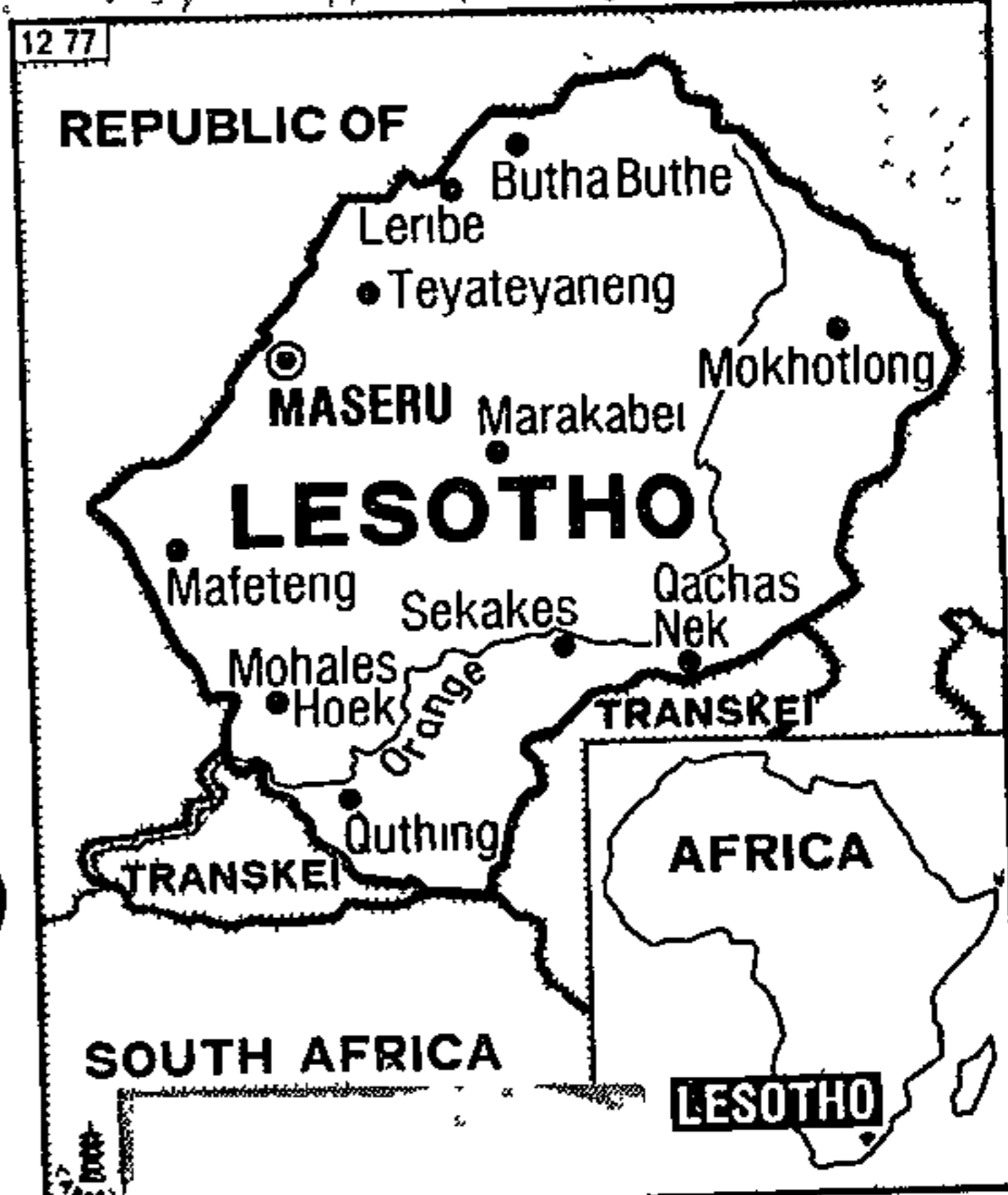
Because of its regional policies outlined above, British and American involvement in SADCC has been very low key up to now

But in the last few months Britain has pledged aid for a the building of a road from Malawi to Tanzania and the US has suddenly promised \$5 million for the rehabilitation of the Harare-to-Beira railway line — a favourite target of Renamo saboteurs My sources tell me South African businessmen are deeply concerned at this development

Although neither Britain, the US nor the World Bank have officially changed their policy of opposing SADCC's delinking with South Africa, their involvement in these projects is clearly a first step in this direction

It will serve as a warning that exercises like the Lesotho blockade could have disastrous long-term consequences for Pretoria

It is the West's turn to say to President Botha Don't push us too far



Landlocked Lesotho and its Prime Minister, Chief Leabua Jonathan (inset)

Lesotho, SA meet today in bid to ease tension

Political Staff

Efforts to defuse tensions between South Africa and Lesotho are being made in Pretoria today at a meeting to discuss the formation of a joint frontier security commission

Officials of the two countries are attending and will report back to their governments

This was confirmed today by Mr Neil van Heerden, Deputy Director General of Foreign Affairs, who will be leading the South African delegation

Defence Force, Police and National Intelligence Service officials will also be present. Among the seven officials from Lesotho will be the secretary of the Cabinet, the secretary of Foreign Affairs and a high-ranking commander in the country's paramilitary force

'NO CLEAR PICTURE'

Mr van Heerden said the talks would be primarily about South Africa's security concerns relating to the African National Congress presence in Lesotho

He said that the Department of Foreign Affairs still did not have a clear picture of what had happened in Lesotho recently. Reports had been confusing.

Western diplomats had the impression today that, according to information they have been receiving from Maseru, Prime Minister Leabua Jonathan had been shifted sideways after a confrontation between him and General Justin Lekhanye, head of the country's paramilitary force

While he formally retains his position, real power in the country is now apparently vested in King Moshoeshoe II, backed by the army

The sharp differences between Chief Jonathan and the army have been about the activities of the Lesotho Youth League

Jonathan: maverick puppet who cut Pretoria's strings

MASERU — Lesotho's Chief Leabua Jonathan has ruled his mountainous kingdom without the backing of the ballot box since 1970.

The country's first general election in 15 years, scheduled for last September, was cancelled when the opposition boycotted nomination courts Jonathan was returned unopposed.

The five small opposition parties charged they had not been allowed to inspect voters' rolls and said election procedures had been unfairly rigged in government's favour.

Jonathan seized power in 1970 when it appeared his Basutoland National Party (BNP) was losing to the opposition Basutoland Congress Party (BCP) in the only elections staged since independence from Britain in 1966.

Ruling autocratically, he led Lesotho away from an early, close alliance with SA to a policy of political and critical independence of its encircling neighbour.

Though Lesotho is economically and militarily at the mercy of Pretoria, Jonathan has resisted pressure to follow the example of Swaziland and Mozambique and sign a non-



● JONATHAN

Border tensions between Lesotho and SA over the past few days have flung the world spotlight on Lesotho, with Western powers accusing SA of imposing a blockade. Then rumours of an attempted coup, sparked by military activity after a Maseru bomb scare, focused attention on Chief Leabua Jonathan, Lesotho's Prime Minister. This article looks at the man.

aggression pact with SA.

Despite "irreconcilable political differences" between the two, "we have from the onset emphasised the need for peaceful coexistence with SA", he said in a speech in May 1984.

He also warned Pretoria that peace in the region would not be possible until it dismantled apartheid.

Ironically, it was with the aid of SA funds that Jonathan won pre-independence elections in 1965. In September that year, he was the first black leader to visit Pretoria and meet the then Prime Minister, Hendrik Verwoerd.

It was also with SA support for the government's paramilitary force that he seized power during the 1970 poll, suspended the constitution,

arrested opposition leaders, banned political parties and established rule by decree.

"I have seized power. I admit it. I am not ashamed of it," he said at the time.

Opposition leader Ntsu Mokhehle claimed his BCP had won 33 of the 60 contested seats. But Jonathan accused him of using violence, intimidation and ballot-rigging.

Political prisoners were released during 1971 but Mokhehle was kept under house arrest.

Jonathan declared a return to parliamentary rule in 1973 with an 86-member interim National Assembly of nominated members from all parties. The BCP split over the Assembly, with one faction loyal to Mokhehle refusing to take part. In 1974, political unrest erupted in

armed attacks on police stations. Jonathan has since accused the BCP's military wing, the Lesotho Liberation Army, of sporadic attacks on officials and government targets in Lesotho.

He has said the attacks were conducted from SA and has charged Pretoria with aiding the rebels.

Jonathan began to distance himself from Pretoria in the late 1970s after SA started to establish independent black homelands.

He increased his criticism of apartheid and expressed open support for liberation movements after the Soweto riots in 1976.

As relations with SA soured, border clashes increased. In December 1982, relations sank to their lowest level when SA troops swept into

Maseru, killing 42 civilians as they attacked dwellings they claimed were African National Congress bases.

In response to an SA demand, Lesotho has since ordered all known black nationalist activists to leave.

In 1983, emphasising his distance from Pretoria and repudiating a fiercely anti-Communist line he espoused in the 1960s, Jonathan visited North Korea, China, Bulgaria, Romania and Yugoslavia.

This was followed by the establishment of Soviet, North Korean and Chinese embassies in Maseru and an immediate doubling of the country's previously all-Western diplomatic community.

Jonathan has ruled since July 5, 1965, when he was sworn into power. 15 months before independence was formally declared on October 4, 1966.

He has since retained a number of portfolios, as well as Prime Minister, among them defence, internal security and electoral affairs.

A practising member of the Roman Catholic Church, Jonathan is married to a member of the royal family, Paleho Molapa. They have seven children — Sapa-Reuter

Lesotho administration seen as tool of the ANC

The iron rule of Leabua Jonathan

w/e ARGUS 18/1/86 167

JOHN D'OLIVEIRA, editor of The Argus Africa News Service, reports from Maseru

CHIEF Leabua Jonathan has ruled tiny, poverty-stricken Lesotho with an iron — and sometimes bloody — hand for nearly 20 years now.

And, for most of those years the bald, tubby former herdboyer who once worked for one and sixpence a day as a compound clerk on the New Modderfontein Gold Mine has been an irritating thorn in South Africa's side.

Today the irritation has become a potential danger as the South African Government sees Chief Jonathan's administration as the tool of the African National Congress and his country as the base from which ANC guerrillas can sow death and destruction in South Africa.

Few people would have predicted this way back in 1965 when Leabua Jonathan led his Basutoland National Party into the 1965 pre-independence elections

A minor chief with a Standard Seven mission-school education and a few years experience as a migrant worker in South Africa, Chief Jonathan's party was soundly defeated in the 1960 elections

The dominant political force then was Mr Ntsu Mokhehle's Basutoland Congress Party with its close links to South Africa's African National Congress and Dr Kwame Nkrumah's Pan-Africanism (After 1962, claiming plots against him in the ANC, Mr Mokhehle switched his friendship to the Pan Africanist Congress)

SA support

However, Chief Jonathan had the benefit in 1965 of South African organisational and financial support. In his election campaigning, he projected himself as the man who could get the best deal from Lesotho's powerful neighbour

His was the only Lesotho party permitted by South Africa to campaign among the tens of thousands of Basotho migrant workers in South Africa

More than anything else, Chief Jonathan's narrow victory in the 1965 election was a gift from Dr Hendrik Verwoerd's racist government

After independence a year later, Chief Jonathan paid two visits to Dr Verwoerd. Seconded South African officials were placed in key positions in his administration and Afrikaner businessman Anton Rupert was appointed Lesotho's honorary industrial adviser

South Africa helped Chief

Jonathan strengthen his police force and watched approvingly as the traditionalist, anti-communist Prime Minister purged the force of anyone whose loyalty was suspect

This bit of foresight by a canny, ruthless politician enabled him to abort the 1970 general election when it seemed clear that the BCP was going to win

Intimidation

Having seized power, Chief Jonathan suspended the constitution, imprisoned opposition leaders, banned their parties, forced young King Moshoeshoe II to abdicate and go into exile in the Netherlands and launched a campaign of intimidation against his opponents

Armed opposition was crushed — bloodily — by the elite police mobile unit using arms, ammunition, light aircraft and helicopters allegedly supplied by friendly South Africa. The record shows that about 1 000 men took up arms against Chief Jonathan's government and that the police killed about 500 of their countrymen

In 1970, when Chief Jonathan attended the Addis Ababa summit meeting of the Organisation of African Unity, Lesotho and Malawi were the only countries to abstain on a resolution calling on western nations to stop supplying arms to South Africa

In 1970 and 1971, Chief Jonathan actively advocated "dialogue" with South Africa

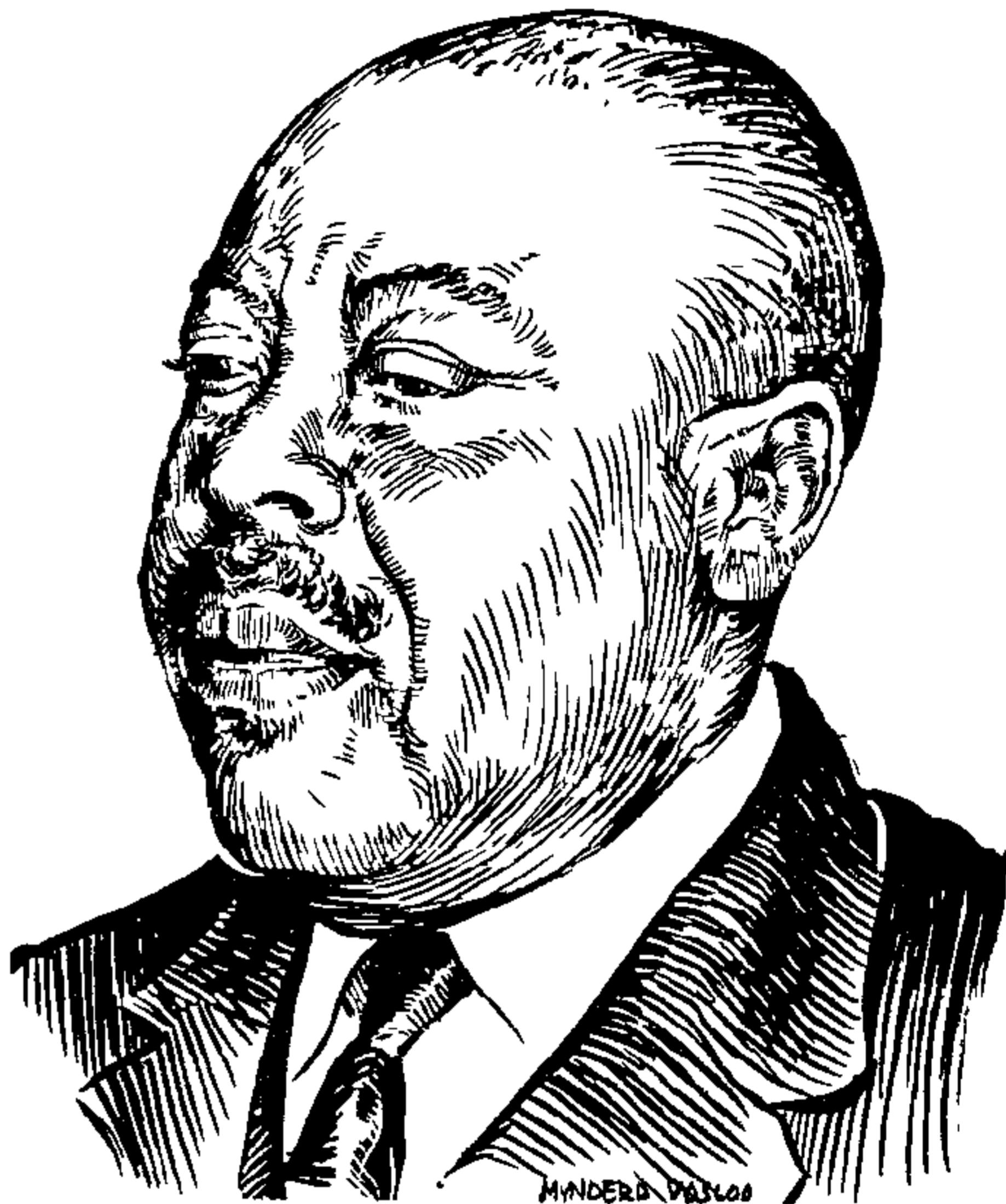
Within months, it was clear the "honeymoon" with South Africa was over, some say because South Africa failed to make good its development promises, others because South Africa wanted Lesotho to hand over ANC and PAC refugees, others because Chief Jonathan's pro-South African stance was making him even more unpopular than he was already

The more cynical claimed Chief Jonathan had learned that his country could milk effectively both the West and the East by presenting itself as the victim of the powerful, racist South African Government

Sharp attacks

Chief Jonathan made increasingly sharp attacks on South Africa, leading to his repudiation by South African Prime Minister John Vorster in 1973

In the years that followed, relations between Lesotho and South Africa became a tedious amalgam of accusation and counter-accusation, of threats and of pressure of international



President Leabua Jonathan ... had the benefit of South African organisational and financial support in the 1965 election

al attack and sometimes heated diplomatic exchanges

While relations with South Africa deteriorated, Chief Jonathan tried his hand at drawing some of the opposition leaders into his government

He was less than successful with the BCP which, in 1974, staged a mini rebellion which was crushed with great severity

Mr Mokhehle and his lieutenants fled Lesotho, an unknown number of people were killed, more than 200 people were detained and 14 were charged with treason — and Lesotho got tough anti-terrorism legislation

The aborted election, the 1974 rebellion and the repression which followed set the scene for the formation of the BCP's military wing, the Lesotho Liberation Army, which developed into one of the most active guerrilla groups in Southern Africa

In the last six years, there have been hundreds of incidents in Lesotho. Hundreds of people have died, many have been injured and millions of rands worth of damage has been done to an already struggling economy

In a sense, by the time the eighties dawned, the pattern for Lesotho had been set: enmity with South Africa, aid and assistance from a sympathetic

world and, in the high mountains, a low-level civil war mounted by the LLA

However, not only did Chief Jonathan turn his back on South Africa, he began assiduously courting the Eastern Bloc

By 1983, he had invited five communist countries — including the Soviet Union, China, North Korea, Rumania and Yugoslavia — to open embassies in Maseru. Diplomatic links with Taiwan and South Korea were severed

These moves turned on its head his 1965 pledge that, as long as he was Prime Minister, he would not allow into Maseru the embassy of any communist country or even any country sympathetic to communism.

And they alienated the powerful Roman Catholic Church in Lesotho which has always been vigorously anti-communist and which originally backed Chief Jonathan because of his tough anti-communist stance

Perhaps it was just as well that the Jonathan government so manipulated the run-up to the 1985 elections that the opposition parties boycotted the first attempt at democracy in Lesotho in 15 years

For Chief Jonathan has made many enemies in the 20 years he has dominated Lesotho politics

Argus
18/11/86
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Several dead in Maseru reports

JOHANNESBURG — Reports persisted today that several people have been killed and a number injured in fighting in Lesotho's capital of Maseru.

One report put the number killed as high as 17. Asked whether there was any truth in this Mr C.R. Matete, the private secretary of the Prime Minister, Chief Leabua Jonathan, said "I am not aware of this".

The fighting is said to have taken place near the paramilitary barracks at Makoanye which are near the headquarters of the Basuto-land National Party youth movement, about five kilometres from the city centre.

Unconfirmed

According to unconfirmed reports eight members of the Lesotho paramilitary were killed and seven from the youth movement.

Earlier it was reported that two people were killed and a number injured in clashes on the south side of the capital.

● More reports on Pages 3 and 12.

Pact or blockade SA tells Maseru

Cape Times 18/1/86 167

From PHILLIP VAN NIEKERK

JOHANNESBURG. — South Africa will not lift the border "blockade" against its tiny neighbour until the Lesotho Government agrees to a security pact, high-ranking Lesotho officials were told in Pretoria yesterday.

The officials met with representatives of the South African departments of Foreign Affairs and Internal Affairs, the State Security Council, the National Intelligence Service, the SA Defence Force and the security police to discuss the crisis in relations between the two countries.

A joint statement after the meeting — which dragged on for the entire day — said the two delegations realised an urgent need to normalise the situation.

"They will submit their recommendations to their governments and the modalities for normalising the situation will be worked out in consultations with the two governments."

'ANC presence'

The Deputy Director General of Foreign Affairs and leader of the South African delegation, Mr Neil van Heerden, told reporters after the meeting that the "bottom line" was the South African demand that Lesotho rid itself of the presence of the African National Congress.

Mr Van Heerden said the "limited but stricter" border control measures imposed were not because South Africa was trying to be vindictive.

He said it was because Lesotho had not adequately addressed the "security considerations" of the presence of the African National Congress in Lesotho and its violent consequences in South Africa.

'Requests'

"This is regardless of numerous requests from our side to Lesotho to sit down and deal with the matter properly. When we failed to gain satisfaction on the diplomatic level we imposed limited border control measures."

Mr Van Heerden said that until the measures could be lifted, Lesotho would have to address South Africa's concerns about security.

We have to reach an agreement on our concerns about security, he said.

No timetable had been set for resolving the issue, but I would say there is a sense of considerable urgency about the question of normalising the matter.

The Lesotho delegation which was led by the secretary to the cabinet, Mr Philemon Rasekoai, left the Union Buildings late yesterday without comment.

Lesotho has in the past refused to sign a security treaty on the lines of the Nkomati Pact with Mozambique and the non aggression pact with Swaziland.

However the country has agreed to the setting up of a joint security sub-committee to fall under the umbrella of the existing inter governmental liaison committee.

This is designed to monitor security considerations such as South African allegations about ANC guerilla activities, on an on-going basis.

According to Mr Van Heerden the talks were held in a 'good spirit' and were, 'above all, characterised by frankness'.

He said it was hard to judge the degree of their willingness to accept the South African demands. "They listened attentively and committed themselves to taking our concerns back."

The Lesotho delegation included Mr Rasekoai, Mr M T Mashelogu, the Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Mr O T Sefako the Secretary for Defence, General S R Matela, the Commissioner of Police, Mr M Mathela Chief Electoral Officer, and Major General J M Lekhanya, the Chief of the Armed Forces.

The South African delegation included Mr Van Heerden and Mr A S Marais of the Department of Foreign Affairs, General A Roux and Brigadier J Klopper of the SA Defence Force, General J F van Rensburg of the State Security Council, Mr M Spaarwater of the National Intelligence Service, Mr J Blignaut of the Department of Internal Affairs and Colonel J Richter of the security police.



The Deputy Director General of Foreign Affairs, Mr Neil van Heerden (left), and the Secretary to the Lesotho Government, Mr Philemon Rasekoai, at the end of yesterday's meeting in Pretoria.

Chief 'is still in control'

Political Correspondent

THERE was 'absolutely no truth' in reports that Chief Leabua Jonathan had been stripped of his power after a falling out with Lesotho's military command, the Prime Minister's press secretary, Mr Tsoeu Mtsane, said yesterday.

Mr Mtsane was reacting to speculation that the Prime Minister had lost the reins of power after a confrontation with the head of Lesotho's paramilitary force, General Justin Lekhanya.

Reports suggested that while Chief Jonathan still retained his position formally, real power in the tiny kingdom had shifted to King Moshoeshoe II, backed by the army.

The Prime Minister's status has not been diminished in any way whatsoever," Mr Mtsane said.

He said General Lekhanya's alleged role in a power grab had been misrepresented. He added that the general had accompanied the Lesotho delegation which yesterday met South African officials in Pretoria to defuse the frontier crisis.



after action satisfaction

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THE PEOPLE HAVE NO MOUTHS
LET THEM HAVE MOUTHS

crack of dawn



BUSINESS BRIEF

Gold (close)	\$353,00
Rand	\$0 4350/60
FT index (close)	1118 70
BD 100	1195 60
Dow Jones	1536 70

W/E News 18/1/86 (167)

'Get rid of ANC'

Weekend Argus Africa News Service
JOHANNESBURG. — South Africa has made it quite clear to Lesotho that the root cause of "abnormal" relations between the two countries is the presence of African National Congress activists in the mountain kingdom.

At talks in Pretoria yesterday, a delegation of high-ranking Lesotho officials was told the relationship between the two countries could not return to normal until South Africa was satisfied the ANC presence in Lesotho would be eliminated.

"That was the bottom line," Mr Neil van Heerden, Deputy Director-General of Foreign Affairs and head of its Africa section, told media representatives afterwards.

While the two delegations were holding discussions, reports of violence between Lesotho security forces and the ruling party's radical youth wing added to the confusion over the situation in the kingdom.

Triggered confrontation

The South African security action on the border apparently triggered a confrontation between hardliners who wanted an international airlift to Lesotho — with all the attendant anti-South African publicity — and moderates who wanted a compromise. It seems the hardliners' attitude prevailed.

On Wednesday members of the Lesotho Paramilitary Force (LPF) surrounded Prime Minister Chief Leabua Jonathan's home to "protect" him from the Youth League.

At the same time, it is believed, LPF commander Major-General JM Lekhanya went into the house and told Chief Jonathan the security forces were unhappy with the situation and the planned Lesotho approach.

He also warned that the Youth League was dangerous and undisciplined and would have to be brought under control.

Special sub-committee

After yesterday's meeting in Pretoria, a joint Press statement was issued. Later Mr van Heerden said both governments had agreed to the creation of a special sub-committee on security.

Chief Jonathan yesterday appeared in public for the first time since reports of a coup on Wednesday. He denied there had been any changes in the Government.

He told a Press conference — closed to foreign journalists — that rumours of a coup were the work of foreign media.

Reliable sources said there had been fresh clashes between units of the LPF and members of the Youth League outside Maseru, but a Government spokesman said the city had been calm all day.

Lesotho told: get rid of ANC

18/1/86
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DISPATCH

Transvaal Bureau

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However, the country has agreed to the setting up of a joint security sub-committee to fall under the umbrella of the Inter-Governmental Liaison Committee.

This is designed to monitor security considerations, such as South African allegations about ANC guerilla activities on an ongoing basis.

Sapa reports from Maseru that the Prime Minister of Lesotho, Chief Leabua Jonathan, said South Africa continued to make life impossible for the sick businesses and visitors by restricting their movement across the border.

In a statement broadcast over Radio Lesotho yesterday, Chief Jonathan said he had sent a delegation of senior officials to Pretoria with the hope that the talks between the delegation and South African representatives would resolve the border crisis.

It was the first statement by Chief Jonathan on the border crisis since South Africa imposed a clampdown at all border posts on New Year's Day.

Meanwhile, Radio Lesotho announced yesterday the South African Transport Services had indicated that the rail service to Lesotho would be reintroduced.

The train service delivers essential supplies from South Africa, including petrol which is already being rationed throughout Lesotho.

167 ANC is cause of tension

STAR. 18/1/86

By John D'Oliveira,
The Star's Africa News Service

South Africa has made it quite clear to Lesotho that the root cause of the current "abnormal" relations between the two countries is the presence of African National Congress activists in the mountain kingdom.

At talks in Pretoria yesterday, a delegation of high-ranking Lesotho officials was told that the relationship between the two countries could not be normalised until South Africa was satisfied that the ANC presence in Lesotho would be eliminated.

That was the bottom line," Mr Neil van Heerden, Deputy Director-General of Foreign Affairs and head of its Africa section, told media representatives afterwards.

While the two delegations were in discussion, reports of violence between Lesotho security forces and the ruling party's radical Youth Wing added to the confusion over the situation in the kingdom.

The South African security action on the border apparently triggered a confrontation between hardliners who wanted an international airlift to Lesotho, with all the attendant anti-South Africa publicity — and moderates who wanted a compromise. It seems the hardliners' attitude prevailed.

On Wednesday, members of the Lesotho Paramilitary Force (LPF) surrounded Prime Minister Mr Leabua Jonathan's home to "protect" him from the Youth League.

At the same time, it is believed, LPF commander Major-General J M Lekhanya went into the home and told Chief Jonathan that the security forces were unhappy with the situation and the planned Lesotho approach.

'Undisciplined'

He also warned that the Youth League was dangerous and undisciplined and would have to be brought under control.

After yesterday's meeting in Pretoria, a joint Press statement was issued. Later Mr van Heerden said both governments had agreed to the creation of a special sub-committee on security.

Gary van Staden writes from Maseru that Mr Jonathan yesterday emerged in public for the first time since reports of a coup in Maseru on Wednesday. He denied that there had been any changes in the government.

He told a Press conference — closed to foreign journalists — that rumours of a coup were the work of foreign media, which were distributing "lies and fabrications".

Reliable sources said yesterday that there had been fresh clashes between units of the LPF and members of the Youth League outside Maseru, but a government spokesman said the city had been calm all day.

TRY LESOTHO UNDER SIEGE: DAY 17



LESOTHO UNDER SIEGE: With one vehicle an hour passing through the SA/Lesotho border post, drivers have to wait hours for their vehicles to be searched.

talks in Pretoria with Foreign Minister Pik Botha over the border dispute are still in detention. Foreign Minister Pik Botha said SA and Lesotho would meet today to discuss the setting up of a special joint frontier security commission, but the strict measures on the border would continue in the meantime.

★ **10RYHR** reason that the and educational Curris bonds will be teachers at a meeting organised by the National Education Union of SA in Durban tomorrow. He will speak at the Luthuli Room of the Ecumenical Centre on "From Crisis in Education to People's Education for People's Power".

Coup? What Coup? asks Minister (167)

Sixishe CITY/P 19/1/86

Sixishe said his ministry was "reviewing the question of allowing the SABC in our country."

About 15 military vehicles and 100 para-military troops had evacuated Jonathan's office and other government departments in Maseru on Wednesday. Sixishe said it was "a f...".



Each person passing through the border post had all their luggage thoroughly searched, item by item.

SHARPTHE FERRING

LESOTHO entered its 17th day under 'seige' yesterday virtually sealed off from the rest of the world by South Africa's massively increased 'security checks' at all border posts. And despite increasingly desperate shortages of petrol and fresh food - and a widely-reported 'coup-attempt' on Wednesday morning - Prime Minister Leabua Jonathan's outspokenly anti-apartheid government remains firmly in control of the tiny mountain kingdom.

Lesotho Information Minister Desmond Sixishe denied there had been a coup attempt and said the rumour had been spread by the SABC, reports **ZB MO-**

tary exercise and later told reporters there had been a bomb scare. An extraordinary Cabinet meeting was called soon after, but no information was given. Sixishe said he was optimistic that SA and Lesotho would reach an accord over the border blockade soon, but warned Lesotho would not agree to SA's demand to return certain political refugees.

"This is an unreasonable demand. We are bound by international convention to protect those who are fleeing from oppression," he said.

SA has accused Lesotho of harbouring African National Congress members and has proposed setting up a committee with Lesotho on this issue. Asked what would happen if SA continued with the blockade

and insisted that they sign an Nkomatjane agreement, he said "If it goes on, it will go on." "We have said signing agreements does not seem to solve problems. Our belief is the removal of SA's internal policies will solve problems in our region."

Meanwhile, five Lesotho opposition leaders who last week held

talks in Pretoria with Foreign Minister Pik Botha over the border dispute are still in detention. Foreign Minister Pik Botha said SA and Lesotho would meet today to discuss the setting up of a special joint frontier security commission, but the strict measures on the border would continue in the meantime.

Lesotho's strongman who won't say 'I do' to SA

CITY P.

1977

19/11/86

LESOTHO Prime Minister Chief
Fleabua Jonathan, whose offices
were reported to be surrounded by

troops today, ruled his mountain-
ous kingdom without the backing
of the ballot box for 15 years until

last year's elections
The country's first general elec-
tion in 15 years was scheduled for

last September, but cancelled
when the Opposition boycotted
nomination courts Jonathan was
returned unopposed

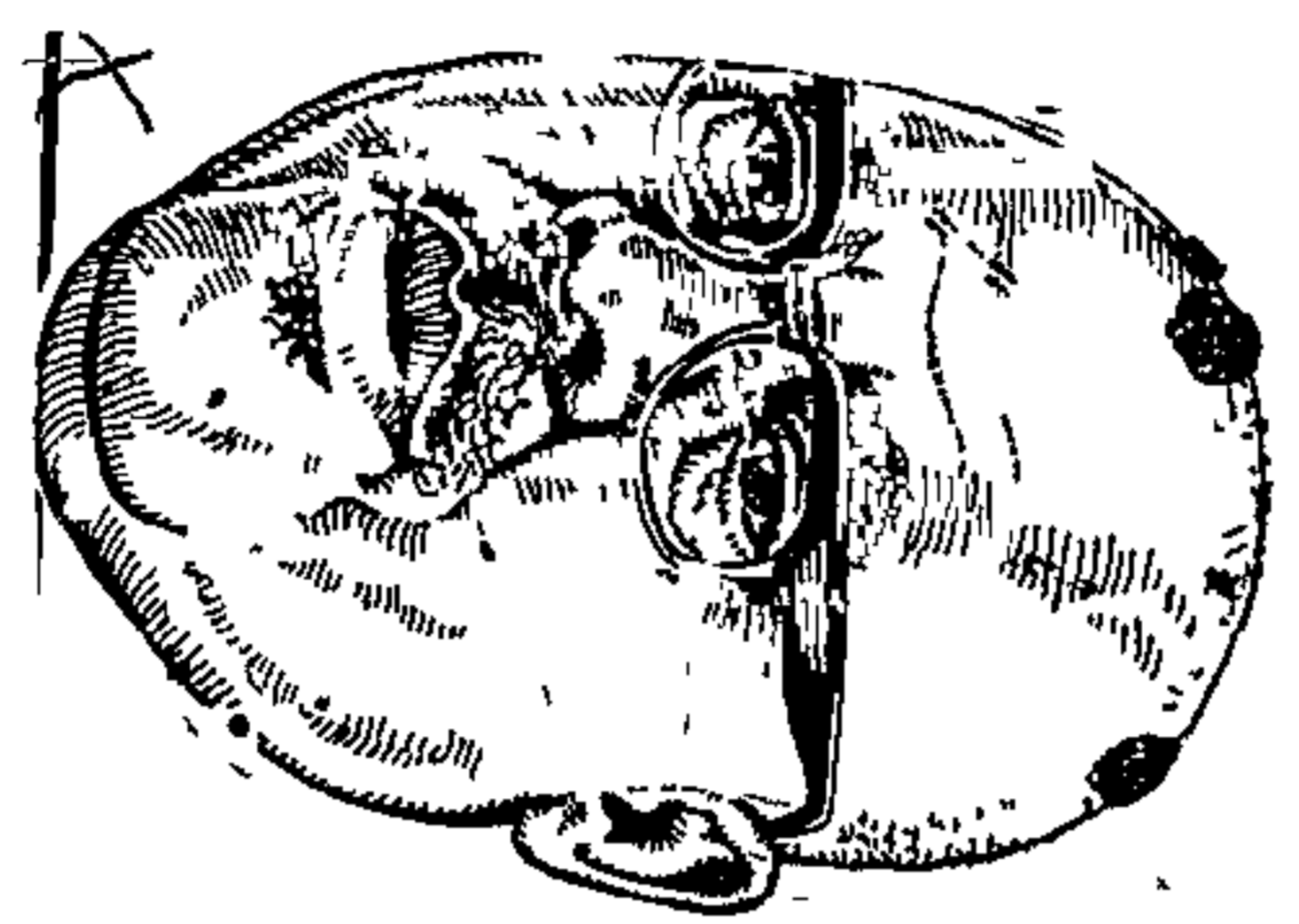
Party in the only elections staged
since independence from Britain
in 1966
Jonathan declared a return to
parliamentary rule in 1973 with
an 86-member interim National
Assembly of nominated members
from all parties

to establish independent black
homelands
And, although Lesotho is eco-
nomic ally and militarily at the
mercy of Pretoria, Jonathan re-
sisted pressure during the mid-
1980s to follow the example of
Swaziland and Mozambique and
sign a non-aggression pact with
SA

The five small opposition par-
ties alleged they had not been
allowed to inspect voters' rolls and
said election procedures had been
unfairly rigged in the govern-
ment's favour

Jonathan seized power in 1970
when it appeared his Basotholand
National Party was losing to the
opposition Basotholand Congress
Party in the only elections staged
since independence from Britain
in 1966
Jonathan declared a return to
parliamentary rule in 1973 with
an 86-member interim National
Assembly of nominated members
from all parties
The BCP split over the Assem-
bly, with one faction loyal to Mok-
hele, refusing to take part in
Jonathan began to distance
himself from Pretoria in the late
1970s after South Africa started

In December 1982, relations
sank to their lowest level when
South African troops swept into
Maseru, killing 42 civilians



Jonathan calls for Western airlift

167

CAPE TOWN
20/1/86

MASERU. — The Prime Minister of Lesotho, Chief Leabua Jonathan, has appealed to the West for an urgent airlift to overcome the 20-day-old South African blockade of the landlocked mountain kingdom — and warned he will turn to the Eastern Bloc if Western aid is not forthcoming

Chief Jonathan's appeal for aid came after it was confirmed that at least four soldiers, two rebels and two loyalists were killed in fighting four kilometres outside Maseru on Friday

Some sources have put the death toll as high as 17 with unnamed military sources telling Sapa the death toll was between eight and 10

There was virtually no traffic in the streets of Maseru yesterday — mainly because of the critical shortage of fuel — and numerous Maseru residents returning from South Africa were passing the border post with cans of fuel

Bread fight

Raw materials are no longer available and although food is still available in Lesotho supplies were reported to be declining steadily with one Maseru cafe owner flying bread in on board his light aircraft

Meanwhile, Margaret Smith reports from London that Chief Jonathan said yesterday in a BBC interview that Lesotho was under a total economic siege by South Africa

He said he was prepared to wait a little longer "for our traditional friends to help" but if they did not, then he would turn to Eastern Bloc countries for "everything — weapons, food, aeroplanes, the whole lot"

The BBC interview follows a letter from Chief Jonathan to the British Government which a spokesman for the Foreign Office told our correspondent would be replied to "sooner rather than later"

He was not prepared to comment further on the chief's threat to turn to the East for help if appeals to the West failed



Chief Leabua Jonathan

Chief Jonathan was waiting to hear from Western leaders including Mrs Margaret Thatcher, about how they intended to help his country face the economic blockade, the BBC representative said from Lesotho

The chief said the "hand of South Africa" lay behind last week's rebellion by the army and that South Africa was trying to destabilize Lesotho

South Africa had infiltrated the tribal chiefs the civil service, the security forces and village people with the sole purpose of deposing him the chief claimed

Asked at a press conference yesterday at his mountain retreat if the government was in control following last week's fighting Chief Jonathan replied "Although you never know, I would say that I am in complete control. Never before in my 30 years in politics have I been so accepted"

The Prime Minister whose home was guarded by a single soldier,

flatly refused South African demands to return ANC refugees to Pretoria and said he knew for certain that there were no ANC military training camps in the kingdom

Information Minister Mr Desmond Sixishe said yesterday in a Lesotho Radio broadcast that four members of the paramilitary force died on Friday in a gun battle at the Makoanyane Barracks about four kilometres south of the capital

He said two rebel soldiers and two loyalists were killed in the clash

'Disobedience'

A further 23 soldiers surrendered after the battle and 10 others were being sought for mutiny following an order to 35 men to hand over their weapons to a base commander

Mr Sixishe said the clash concerned "disobedience" and was not linked either to South Africa's 20-day anti-guerrilla border blockade or to rumours that an attempted coup failed on Wednesday

Sources in Maseru said the clash was between Korean-trained radical members of the armed youth wing of Chief Jonathan's Basotho National Party and conservative soldiers in the 1500-member paramilitary force

Mr Sixishe did not comment on reports that General Lekhanya, leader of the conservative group and commander of the paramilitary force has hobbled Chief Jonathan stripping him of some of his political power

General Lekhanya led a raid on Wednesday by about 150 soldiers on Chief Jonathan's offices, surrounding the building for four hours Sapa Reuter and UPI

Lesotho threat to call in Reds

(167) Mercury 20/1/86

LONDON—Chief Leabua Jonathan, Prime Minister of Lesotho, said yesterday that if the West did not come to his aid, he would turn to the Communist Bloc for help

At the same time he said he would not bend to Pretoria's demand that all ANC refugees living in Lesotho had to be returned to South Africa reports Sapa Reuter

Chief Jonathan appealed for a Berlin type airlift of essential goods into Lesotho

The Cuban Foreign Minister Mr Isidoro Malmierca, is currently visiting Lesotho, but Chief Jonathan said that only if he did not get assistance from the West would he turn to countries such as Cuba

Lesotho, he claimed was under a total economic siege mounted by South Africa

Denied

Chief Jonathan said he was prepared to wait a little longer for our traditional friends to help

If they did not, he said he would turn to Eastern Bloc countries for everything — weapons food aeroplanes, the whole lot

South Africa has denied blockading Lesotho but says it is stopped up border checks to catch terrorists of the banned African National Congress

Chief Jonathan speaking at his mountain retreat, said he was surprised Britain and the United States had not responded to an appeal last week to intervene in the dispute with South Africa

He said fighting last week in Lesotho was an internal matter within the armed forces and had nothing to do with politics

He said four rebel sol

diers and one loyalist soldier had died in fighting after 35 members of the military involved in discipline had refused to surrender

Asked if the Government was in control he replied Although you never know I would say that I am in complete control Never before in my 30 years in politics have I been so accepted

The Prime Minister whose home was guarded by a single soldier flatly refused South African demands to return ANC refugees to Pretoria

But he said he knew for certain that there were no ANC military training camps in the kingdom

Our London Bureau reports that Chief Jonathan's statement follows a letter to the British Government which a spokesman for the Foreign Office said would be replied to sooner rather than later

He was not prepared to comment further on the chief's plea or threat to turn to the East

Infiltrated

Chief Jonathan was still waiting to hear from Western leaders including Mrs Margaret Thatcher, about how they intended to help his country face the economic blockade by South Africa a BBC representative said from Lesotho

He had said South Africa was trying to destabilise Lesotho South Africa had infiltrated the tribal chiefs the civil service the security forces and village people with the sole purpose of getting him out of power he had said

Whitehall sources last night said that Chief Jonathan's threat to turn to the Eastern Bloc if the West were to fail him had added a new dimension to the problem

Skimming barefoot across the water



ASTON

Lesotho Govt toppled by military in bloodless coup

From Page 1

nothing has happened" Lesotho's Moshoeshe International Airport, near Maseru, has been closed and all flights cancelled.

Meanwhile, the Lesotho side of the South African border remained open and traffic flowed nor-

mally. Yesterday, Chief Jonathan said he was still firmly in control of the country and Government sources said then that the leader of the attempted coup, Colonel Sehlabo Sehlabo, of the paramilitary force, had been arrested and would probably be court-martialled. Today's announcement

appeared to signal that Gen Lekhanye had joined hands with Col Sehlabo. Pretoria has imposed a crippling economic blockade against this tiny enclave of 1.5 million people since January 1, saying it was harbouring guerrillas dedicated to overthrowing the Government in SA.

The South African clampdown has played

167 F Post 20/86
Chief Jonathan yesterday appealed to the West to airlift supplies in, giving a warning that if his call was not heeded he would turn to Eastern bloc allies like Cuba. Ironically, Chief Jona-

han yesterday expressed his confidence in General Lekhanye. He said the army chief was "a good and mature soldier who prefers to remain in the barracks in preference to the attractions of political power". Chief Jonathan added that Gen Lekhanye had refused to be subjected to South African demands to

take over power because he was "a highly disciplined man". Lesotho's Information Minister, Mr Desmond Sixishe, refused to discuss the situation today. Speaking by telephone from his Maseru office, Mr Sixishe said "I don't know," when asked about the situation in Maseru — Sapa

King, head of paramilitary force to run country

Military takes over control in Lesotho

20/1/86

(87)

STAR

The Star's Africa News Service

Maseru

The head of the Lesotho Paramilitary Force, Major-General Justin Lekhanye, has toppled the government of Chief Leabua Jonathan and will run the country together with King Moshoeshoe II.

This was confirmed in an announcement by Radio Lesotho this morning. It said the step had been taken to "install peace and national reconciliation" in the country — something which has been a problem for politicians.

The announcement said authority in the mountain kingdom would henceforth be vested in a "military council" and the country would be under the direct administration of General Lekhanye, with King Moshoeshoe II as "head of state".

It said government activities would be "temporarily entrusted" to the military council and the principal secretaries in ministries.

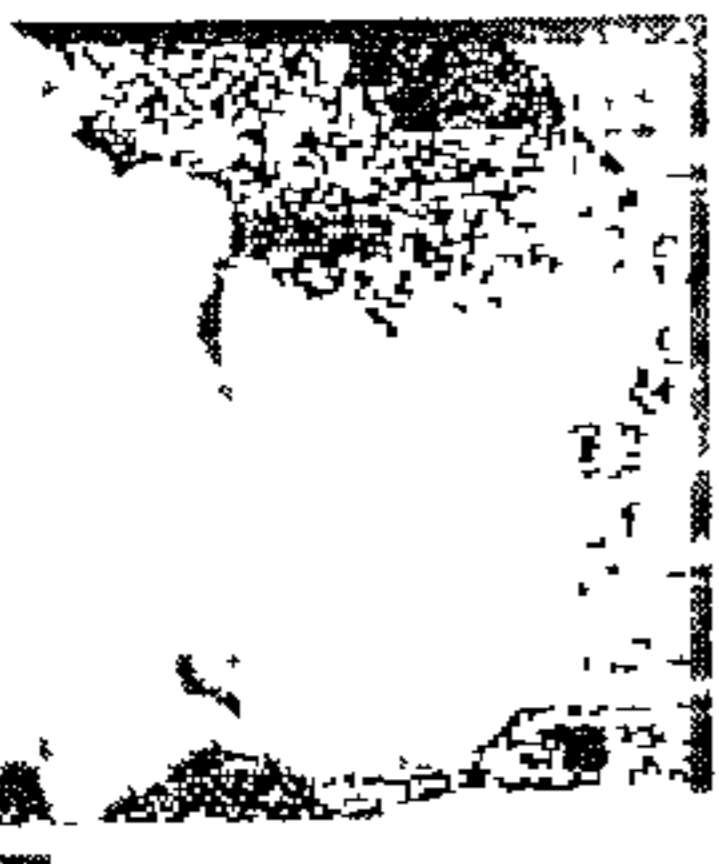
Nothing was said about the fate of Prime Minister Jonathan, who has ruled Lesotho with an iron hand for the past 20 years, and that of his Cabinet.

While the atmosphere in Maseru was calm today, the recently-constructed Moshoeshoe II International Airport outside Maseru has been closed to all traffic, as has been the older Leabua Jonathan Airport.

But border traffic was moving as normally as it has been since South Africa applied intensified security measures two weeks ago.

The takeover announcement ended days of speculation about a coup in Lesotho.

Yesterday Chief Jonathan called foreign journalists to his mountain retreat to deny that there had been a coup, to attack South Africa for "blockading" the country.



General Justin Lekhanye, commander-in-chief.

cont ↓

General — a loyal and good soldier

General Justin Lekhanye, the military commander who is likely to head Lesotho's government after last night's coup, is described as a competent soldier with no interest in politics.

He is said to be extremely loyal to King Moshoeshoe II, who is expected to continue as head of state but with greater executive powers than those allowed him by the deposed prime minister, Leabua Jonathan.

General Lekhanye is described as a pragmatic man who is likely to favour close economic and other ties with South Africa. He is thought unlikely to look favourably on these relations being strained by African National Congress operations from Lesotho. — The Star's Africa News Service

No comment yet — Pik

CAPE TOWN — The South African Government has reacted cautiously to the news of a coup in Lesotho.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Pik Botha, said today he did not want to comment until it was completely clear what direction the new government would take.

"The South African Government would naturally welcome any development that would contribute to the easing of tensions and to stability on the border," he said.

General Justin Lekhanya, commander of Lesotho's paramilitary force, who was behind the coup which toppled Prime Minister Leabua Jonathan, is known to favour negotiations between the two countries. — Political Staff

he would turn to the East if Western powers ignored his appeal for an emergency airlift to supply Lesotho with vital commodities.

He said the fighting in Lesotho on Friday night, in which four people were killed and a number injured was an "internal matter in the armed forces" and had nothing to do with politics.

"I would say that I am in complete control. Never before in my 30 years in politics have I been so accepted."

The radio announcement said the nation was urged to "co-operate" and avoid "unnecessary conflict", while the Lesotho Mounted Police and foreign companies operating in Lesotho were told to "carry on their activities as if nothing has happened".

Youth League

The seizure of power by the head of Lesotho's 1500-strong defence force follows almost a week of confusion.

It is based on differences over Chief Jonathan's approach to power, over his growing links with Communist bloc countries, over his attitude to the ANC in Lesotho and over the activities of his ruling party's Youth League.

Many of the members of the Youth League are armed — with their arms and training coming largely from North Korea — and there has long been conflict between them and the PMF.

On Friday a top-level Lesotho delegation went to Pretoria for talks on South Africa's concern over the ANC and its resulting security measures on the border.

General Lekhanye was a member of the delegation.

There is some speculation in Maseru now that the crisis which led to the takeover by General Lekhanye was triggered by the South African demands and by differences over Lesotho's response.



Chief JONATHAN

Maseru regime tumbles

167
20/1/88
E. POST

MASERU — The Government of Prime Minister Chief Leabua Jonathan of Lesotho was toppled early today by the military in a bloodless coup, official Radio Lesotho reported.

A brief announcement, repeated at regular intervals, said the commander of the country's 1500-member paramilitary force, Major-General Justice Lekhanye, had taken power immediately and appealed for calm.

The radio reports said General Lekhanye would govern the country under the head of State, King Moshoeshoe II, with the assistance of a Military Council and principal secretaries of various State departments

General Lekhanye said

he had taken over because of the confusion in Lesotho and because politicians had failed to govern the country.

Chief Jonathan was at his home near Maseru today after the takeover

A military officer in charge at Radio Lesotho, who refused to disclose his name, said the former Prime Minister was not under house arrest

"In fact, it is as if nothing has happened here," he said. Workers manned the radio station, "but we (the paramilitary force)

are in charge", he said

There was general rejoicing in Maseru today

At villages around Maseru, large crowds, consisting mainly of women, ululated, danced and screamed "Away with Leabua" and "Save us Lekhanye"

At the main bus and taxi terminal in Maseru, taxi drivers and other motorists sped around the terminal and blew their hooters and shook clenched fists

Members of the Lesotho Army on several

army trucks gave the clenched fist salute in support of people who marched down the main street

Radio Lesotho said the coup was aimed at restoring peace and national reconciliation in the country, which has been subjected to a crippling economic clampdown on its borders by South Africa since January 1

The coup was first announced in English and Sotho by a radio announcer at 5 45am, followed by a second announcement

at 6am

Radio Lesotho, which earlier today played martial music interspersed with repeats of the announcement every 15 minutes in Sotho and English of the takeover, later switched to playing country and western music in place of normal programmes

The announcement said "the police and foreign companies should carry out their activities as if

● Turn to Page 3

Leabua plea for help

Sowetan
20/1/86
167

THE Lesotho Prime Minister, Chief Leabua Jonathan, yesterday appealed to the West for an emergency airlift because of a blockade of his tiny kingdom by South Africa and warned that otherwise he would turn to the East.

Reporters who attended a Press conference near the Lesotho capital of Maseru quoted Chief Jonathan as saying that Lesotho which is encircled by South Africa, was facing a full economic siege by Pretoria.

South Africa has denied blockading Lesotho but says it has stepped up border checks to catch guerillas of the banned African National Congress

Chief Jonathan, speaking at his mountain retreat, said he was surprised Britain and the United States had not responded to an appeal last week to intervene in the dispute with South Africa.

The Cuban Foreign Minister, Mr Isidoro Malmierca, is currently visiting Lesotho, but Chief Jonathan said only if he did not get assistance from the West would he turn to countries such as Cuba.

Chief Jonathan said fighting last week in Lesotho was an internal matter within the armed forces and had nothing to do with politics.

Control

He said four rebel soldiers and one loyalist soldier died in fighting after 35 members of the military who had been involved in indiscipline refused to surrender

Asked if the government was in control, he

SAPA-REUTER

replied "Although you never know, I would say that I am in complete control. Never before in my 30 years in politics have I been so accepted"

Chief Jonathan accused Pretoria of trying to destabilise his country in collaboration with opposition parties which he said were a creation of South Africa

The Prime Minister, whose home was guarded by a single soldier, flatly refused South African demands to return ANC refugees to Pretoria

Punish

But he said he knew for certain that there were no African National Congress military training camps in the kingdom.

The United Democratic Front has condemned the blockade of South Africa's border with Lesotho as "yet another example of South Africa's policy of destabilisation"

The UDF's acting publicity secretary, Mr Murphy Morobe, said in a statement yesterday that South Africa was seeking to punish Lesotho for its "strong anti-apartheid stand"

He said it was not sufficient for the international community, particularly the United

States and Britain, "to simply express concern at these developments"



Chief Leabua Jonathan
.. appeal for aid.

BUS DAY
Bread price shock looms

20/11/86
 GERALD REILLY

THE cabinet is expected to approve another bread price rise — it could be 5c a loaf — before the Budget in March

Informed sources in Pretoria said at the weekend the adjustment could be made early next month

The increase would be made to compensate the baking and milling industries for added costs caused by the 8c/l rise in the petrol price since November

The cabinet's dilemma is whether or not to provide enough cash in the Budget to avoid yet another big price rise at the start of the financial year in April.

The decision will have to be taken against the background of the Davin Commission recommendation that the bread subsidy should be phased out

The cabinet will also have to sanction the import of 300 000 tons of wheat to supplement SA's crop

BUS DAY
7 killed, 45 injured in fighting on mine

20/11/86
 CLAIRE PICKARD-CAMBRIDGE

SEVEN workers died and 45 were hospitalised after fierce fighting broke out between Zulus and Pondos at the Gold Fields' administered Kloof Mine near Westonaria early yesterday

A management spokesman said fighting around the mine hostels started just after midnight and involved about 2 000 of the 14 000-strong workforce. The SA Police had been called in and peace was restored by 6.30am.

He said management met with delegations from Zulu and Pondo factions yesterday and it emerged that a Zulu gang, the Soul Brothers, had been harassing and attacking lone Pondos

STAR
Cubans arrive in Maseru

20/11/86 (167)
 PETER HONEY

CUBAN foreign minister Isidoro Malmierca, his wife and five Cuban officials flew into troubled Maseru on an official visit on Friday.

Meanwhile, military commanders loyal to Lesotho Prime Minister Leabua Jonathan undertook a bloody purge of dissidents within the paramilitary force.

By midnight on Friday, two dissidents and two loyalist soldiers had died in the clashes, which apparently erupted when 35 paramilitary force members, including a colonel and a major, were ordered to hand in their weapons

Information Minister Desmond Sixshe told *Business Day* yesterday the Prime Minister's position was secure, adding it had not been at stake when paramilitary troops surrounded Jonathan's offices on Wednesday.

Sixshe said the Cuban delegation's visit reciprocated a visit to Cuba by Lesotho Foreign Minister Vincent Makhele in October.

Cuba and Lesotho had formal diplomatic relations, he said, but the two chose not to exchange diplomatic missions because Lesotho feared it would aggravate its shaky relations with SA

Sixshe yesterday rejected suggestions that Lesotho might try to garner Cuban military aid in retaliation for SA's construction of supplies to the landlocked

● To Page 2

BUS DAY
Lesotho purges dissidents

20/11/86
 kingdom and Pretoria's occasional military actions against the ANC in Lesotho

"It would create a bloodbath. We do not need military aid, although we have several friends who would be willing to assist us. We need an understanding with SA," he said.

Sixshe said yesterday 23 dissidents soldiers — including the alleged leader of the insurrection, a Colonel Sehlabo — were arrested at the weekend and 10 more were being sought.

Sixshe confirmed to *Business Day* for the first time that political differences — "actually more of a discussion" — between supporters of the ruling Ba-

sotho National Party's youth league and loyalist paramilitary leaders had sparked the gunfights around Maseru last week.

"It was not even the whole youth league or even whole paramilitary force who were involved," he said.

He said the armed forces had lacked discipline. "It is unfortunate so many things happened at the same time."

He confirmed North Koreans were involved in Lesotho's youth training programme, but said they were providing training in the martial arts.

● From page 1

Focus on Beira as Lesotho suffers

8 BUS DAY

20/11/86 (167)

BEIRA — SA's border clamp on Lesotho has highlighted efforts by neighbouring states to lessen dependence on transport routes through SA.

Similar action by Pretoria along its borders with Zimbabwe and Botswana, in retaliation for insurgent attacks or the threat of sanctions, would cause economic chaos on a much greater scale, affecting millions of people.

The Indian Ocean port of Beira, Mozambique, is assuming more strategic importance as Pretoria demonstrates a hardening attitude towards its neighbours.

It is a role for which the city is well situated but ill-equipped to handle, with its port badly silted and its harbour run down after years of neglect.

The Beira corridor, from the port along a 320km rail link to Zimbabwe, is one of the few choices available to Southern African states for the transport of imports and exports.

SA's threats to close its borders and a pro-Western shift by Mozambican President Samora Machel over the past two years have added impetus to rehabilitating the 50-year-old port and rail line to the Zimbabwean border town of Mutare.

Under a \$50m Dutch government aid project, a new quay is under construction, six of the 11 wharfs are being rebuilt, other facilities — such as refrigerated storage areas — are being modernised and the channel to the port is being dredged.

The US is giving Mozambique a \$5.5m grant to repair and improve the railway and work is due to begin within the next few weeks.

The rail rehabilitation programme, which involves replacing the line's old wooden sleepers and strengthening the track, will take about a year.

Beira port director Gabriel Mabunda, of Mozambique's rail and harbours authority, said last year the port-rail route carried 243 000 tons of international cargo traffic.

"With the rehabilitation programme, we hope to increase that amount by four times and the port has the potential to handle a total of 3-million tons of general cargo a year," Mabunda said.

Even an increase to 1-million tons of goods to and from neighbouring states would have little impact on the 14-million tons of goods imported and exported by Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi and Botswana each year.

The port, at the mouth of the Pungwe River, needs constant dredging to maintain a depth of 6m in the approach channel which, even then, allows ships of only 25 000 tons to dock.

Further north, Finnish aid workers are rehabilitating Nacala harbour, and Canada, France and Portugal are financing the restoration of the 600km rail line to Malawi.

Although even the biggest ships will be able to dock in Nacala's deep-water bay, aid workers estimate it will be three years before rail traffic is flowing freely on that route. — Sapa-Reuter.

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167

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Jonathan overthrow no surprise

Defence Correspondent
THE overthrow yesterday of Chief Leabua Jonathan by his armed forces chief, General Justin Lekhanye, came as a surprise only to those observers who did not want to believe it could or would happen. It has been speculated that South Africa was materially involved in the coup. This is possible, but it does not appear to have been necessary.

paramilitary police force take action was the knowledge that South Africa would not disapprove — and a border blockade which could be blamed on the chief.

Pro-coup factors included the following:
● The paramilitary force is so small that it is not even listed in the latest issue of the authoritative publication, the Military Balance — but it is the only organized and disciplined armed force in the country.

naturally fashioned the force in his own political image.
● The force owes allegiance to, and is supported by, King Moshoeshoe II, an old political adversary of Chief Jonathan.

Chief Jonathan has a long history of accepting aid and envoys from any source, regardless of whether they are offered by traditional allies or communist-bloc nations. This has led to a significant communist-bloc dip-

lomatic activity in Lesotho, some radicalization among the pro-government youth and an erosion of support from his traditional conservative tribal and religious power-base, possibly to the point where his overthrow would have genuine popular support.

Chief Jonathan has been perceptibly losing his grip on Lesotho's political affairs recently — as could be seen when various opposition leaders openly held talks with Mr Pk Botha recently and clearly did not fear stern retaliation when they returned home.

The coup-plotters obviously became perturbed by Chief Jonathan's apparent willingness to defy South Africa, even though Lesotho is a total economic hostage of the Republic, which could destroy its economy without firing a shot.

It is clear the plotters also knew that they would have little to fear from South Africa — and probably much to gain — if they neutralized all in-country African National Congress activities and expelled "undesirables" (from Pretoria's viewpoint) such as North Koreans and Cubans who were turning Lesotho into a handy anti-South African listening post. This being so, South Africa's blockade deci-

● An unknown quantity at this stage is the shadowy Lesotho Liberation Army, which Chief Jonathan has claimed was operating from South Africa. It is not known whether the LLA has any connection with the Lesotho armed forces. If it has been operating from South Africa and in fact is opposed to the new rulers in Lesotho, it will be the target of widespread South African and Basotho pressure.

● The paramilitary force is said to consist mainly of conservative rather than radical elements — which is likely, since Chief Jonathan is a conservative himself and

● Chief Jonathan has a long history of accepting aid and envoys from any source, regardless of whether they are offered by traditional allies or communist-bloc nations. This has led to a significant communist-bloc dip-

lomatic activity in Lesotho, some radicalization among the pro-government youth and an erosion of support from his traditional conservative tribal and religious power-base, possibly to the point where his overthrow would have genuine popular support.

Chief Jonathan has been perceptibly losing his grip on Lesotho's political affairs recently — as could be seen when various opposition leaders openly held talks with Mr Pk Botha recently and clearly did not fear stern retaliation when they returned home.

The coup-plotters obviously became perturbed by Chief Jonathan's apparent willingness to defy South Africa, even though Lesotho is a total economic hostage of the Republic, which could destroy its economy without firing a shot.

It is clear the plotters also knew that they would have little to fear from South Africa — and probably much to gain — if they neutralized all in-country African National Congress activities and expelled "undesirables" (from Pretoria's viewpoint) such as North Koreans and Cubans who were turning Lesotho into a handy anti-South African listening post. This being so, South Africa's blockade deci-

Lesotho may turn to East for help

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20/1/82
DISPATCH

JOHANNESBURG — The Lesotho Prime Minister, Chief Leabua Jonathan, yesterday appealed to the West for an emergency airlift to his country and warned that otherwise he would turn to the East

Reporters who attended a press conference near Maseru quoted Chief Jonathan as saying that Lesotho was facing a full economic siege by South Africa

South Africa has denied blockading Lesotho but says it has stepped up border checks to catch guerrillas of the banned African National Congress

Chief Jonathan speaking at his mountain retreat said he was surprised Britain and the United States had not responded to his appeal last week to intervene in the dispute with South Africa

He said he was prepared to wait a little longer 'for our traditional friends to help if they did not he said he would turn to Eastern bloc countries for everything — weapons food aeroplanes the whole lot

The Cuban Foreign Minister, Mr Isidoro Malmierca is currently visiting Lesotho but Chief Jonathan said only if he did not get assistance from the West would he turn to countries such as Cuba

Chief Jonathan said fighting last week in Lesotho was an internal matter within the armed forces and had nothing to do with politics

He said four rebel soldiers and one loyalist soldier died in fighting after 35 members of the military who had been involved in indiscipline refused to surrender

He said he had complete confidence in the commander of the Lesotho paramilitary unit Major General Justin Lekhane

Asked if the government was in control he replied 'Although you never know I would say that I am in complete control Never before in my 30 years in politics have I been so accepted'

Chief Jonathan accused Pretoria of trying to destabilise his country in collaboration with opposition parties which he said were a creation of South Africa

He said South Africa had infiltrated the tribal chiefs the civil service the security forces and village people with the sole purpose of getting him out of power

The Prime Minister whose home was guarded by a single soldier refused South African demands to return ANC refugees to Pretoria

But he said he knew for certain that there were no ANC military training camps in the kingdom

In London a spokesman for the British Prime Minister Mrs Margaret Thatcher said yesterday the government had nothing to add to a statement last week that Britain would appeal to South Africa to lift the border restrictions

Whitehall sources said last night that Chief Jonathan's threat to turn to the East for help had added a new dimension to the problem

Earlier reports at the weekend had put the death toll in the fighting at 17

Residents of the Lihabane area about 4 km south of Maseru said small scale fighting started in the Mkoanvane paramilitary force barracks near there late on Friday and sporadic shooting was heard until midnight

Sapa's correspondent in Maseru said the clash was between communist trained members of the Youth League of the ruling Basotho National Party and members of the paramilitary — mostly Western trained

An unknown number of the Youth League had been supplied with small arms recently to provide security in remote rural villages

Earlier last week the army had disarmed a number of Youth League members who were guarding the office of the Prime Minister

The fight was said to have broken out after members of the Youth League resisted army efforts to disarm them at the barracks near the city centre

There was virtually no traffic in the streets of Maseru yesterday partly because of the critical shortage of fuel

Numerous Maseru residents returning from South Africa were passing the border post with cans of fuel

Food was still available in Lesotho but supplies were reported to be declining steadily

A Maseru cafe owner was flying bread in aboard his light aircraft. Raw materials were no longer available

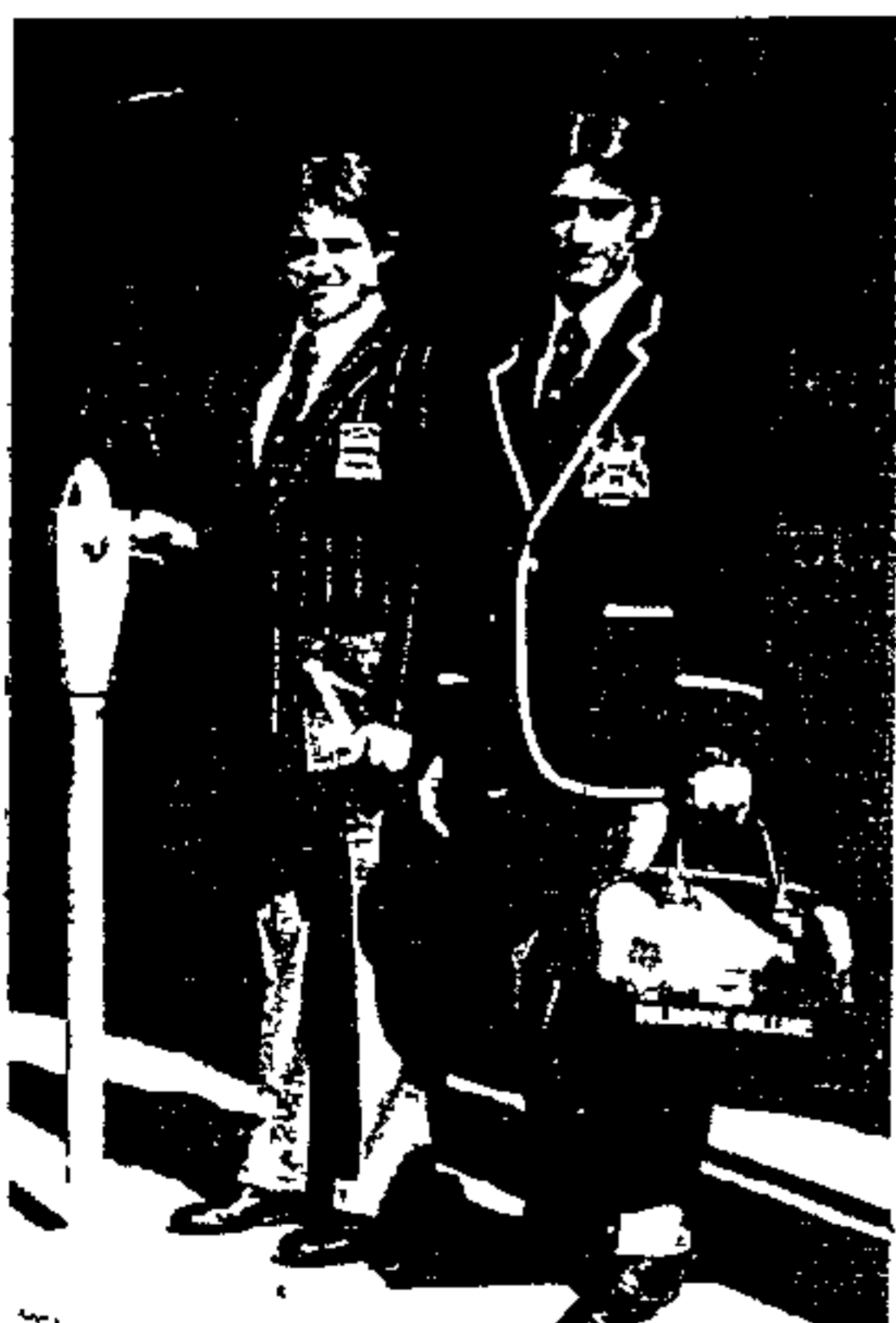
The owner of an engineering concern no longer has work for the 60 people he employs

In Johannesburg the United Democratic Front condemned South Africa's border action as 'yet another example of South Africa's policy of destabilisation

A UDF statement said South Africa sought to punish Lesotho for its 'strong anti apartheid stand' — Sapa DDC RNS



The bride gets a helping hand ashore. To make their marriage just that much more memorable Tina Nixon were ferried across the Buffalo River to their wedding reception



First class passes begin with Rex Trueform from Strand

Official stockists of Boys' and Girls' Summer and Winter Uniforms for

Pollock injury casts gloom over Boks

JOHANNESBURG — The menacing Rackerke delivery that broke Graeme Pollock's hand at the Wanderers on Saturday has thrown a gloomy pall over the remainder of the season

The master Springbok batsman will be out of action for six weeks and miss the six one day internationals against the touring Australians

It's broken a clean break near the third finger said a disconsolate Pollock after being forced to leave the field

Gerrie Coetzee's got nothing on me

The 41 year old left hander suffered the injury when he was hit on the hand by Carl Rackemann shortly after scoring a faultless half century that blazed his side out of a precarious position

Pollock said he had felt no particular pain when the ball struck his hand

There were 10 minutes to go until tea and I wanted to stick around I did the normal thing You don't want to let the bowler know that you've

been hit — but when I tried to pick up the bat I couldn't close my hand

There was no strength in it at all and I said Ricey it's gone It looks as though I'll be out until close to the end of the season My big problem now is thinking what to do next season

Springbok captain Clive Rice said he knew Pollock had suffered serious injury when he saw he could not pick up his bat properly

Australian captain Kim Hughes displayed scant sympathy after a day which saw his own team reduced to two bowlers through a hamstring injury to Rodney Hogg and heat exhaustion suffered by Rackemann who went off the field with the worst case of fatigue I have ever seen according to Dr Ali Bacher the SA Cricket Union's special consultant

Yeah well it's a shame about Pollock but it's about time they (the Springboks) had a bit of bad luck Hughes said

We're in a Catch 22

situation with only two fit bowlers When Pollock went off they were in a lot of trouble If we had got another two wickets we'd have been right into their tail but it's not easy when you only have two bowlers left

The Australian captain obviously plays it hard Asked how he felt about the two bouncers Rice had bowled to Rackemann — one of which felled the giant Queenlander — Hughes snapped It's not a bloody Sunday after noon picnic It's Test cricket If you want to play schoolboy cricket then you must play with schoolboys I have no reaction at all to that incident

Both captains agreed that the match is finely poised

It's an even ball game They're about 50 or 60 runs away from being on top and we're two or three wickets away It's a fine line 'was how Hughes saw it

There is still a lot of work to be done on both sides Rice said — Sapa

See also page 20

2 die in shack fire

EAST LONDON — mother and her child were burnt to death in shack in Ziphunzar section of Duncan V. lage on Saturday night

They were identified as Mrs Monica Ntugumtswana and her six month old baby, Lunyale

Firemen helped to extinguish the flames, but prevented them from spreading to nearby shacks

A spokesman for the fire brigade said the fire was apparently caused by a candle — DDR

Suspect shot dead

DISPATCH REPORTER EAST LONDON — rape suspect was shot dead yesterday morning on a farm in the Mleantown district after resisting arrest

A police spokesman said yesterday that man was wanted in connection with the r

Lesotho says she'll still aid refugees

29/1/86

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DISPATCH

MASERU — More ANC members would be expelled from Lesotho if it was in the interests of national security, the new military ruler indicated yesterday

In his first press conference since taking power from Chief Leabua Jonathan, Major-General Metsing Lekhanya said the 60 African National Congress members who flew to Lusaka at the weekend were evacuated for their own safety and for reasons of national security

People who posed a threat to the country's security would "have to find some other place"

Asked whether South Africa would have any say in the expulsion of

ANC members, he said "I cannot change the geographical position of Lesotho. We are surrounded by South Africa"

But any calls would have to be discussed with South Africa or any other country concerned and anyone demanding the expulsion of refugees must prove it was for the security of the country and people concerned

He reiterated that Lesotho would not hand over refugees to South Africa but would abide by United Nations conventions on refugees

He said he did not know of any activists among the country's

refugees but his security personnel would inform him of any found

In a statement, Gen Lekhanya said the Lesotho Paramilitary Forces had seized power "to restore peace and national reconciliation among the people"

He had suspended all political activities for now, but there would be no "witch-hunting or vendettas against members of the previous government"

Gen Lekhanya said relations with South Africa were to be resolved at the negotiating table. Meetings with South Africa would continue on a regular basis

On prospects for an

Nkomati-type accord with South Africa, Gen Lekhanya said he had found no reason yet to sign such an agreement. "A piece of paper you call an agreement wouldn't solve anything" His government would solve differences through negotiation

Meanwhile, the leader of the military council's delegation to the SADCC conference in Harare, Mr Moletsane Monyake, told the Zimbabwean news agency Ziana there was no question of Lesotho handing back refugees to South Africa

Although some policies would change, Lesotho's stance on helping refugees would not, he said — Sapa-DDC

Cape Times 21/6/86
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SA Govt accused of destabilizing Lesotho

SOUTH AFRICA has not officially reacted to yesterday's coup in Lesotho, but the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Pik Botha, said yesterday South Africa would welcome any lessening of tension in that country.

It would also favour any move that contributed towards greater stability on the two countries' border, he said.

"The South African Government has always valued the good relations which have existed for such a long time between the people of Lesotho and the people of South Africa," he said.

The Progressive Federal Party yesterday charged that South Africa's "heavy-handed blockade" of Lesotho's borders had "undoubtedly brought the fragile political situation in that country to a head".

The PFP's chief foreign affairs spokesman, Mr Colin Eglin, said the economic pressure exercised by the

Republic on its "desperately weak" and economically dependent neighbour had clearly affected its stability.

Mr Eglin said the question as to whether South Africa or its agents had had any direct hand in the coup could not be answered at this stage.

What was clear, however, was that the developments inside Lesotho could not be divorced from the political situation in South Africa.

"The deterioration in relations between South Africa and her neighbours, and the Lesotho crisis in particular, shows that apartheid inside South Africa with its denial of political rights and of basic human freedoms is the greatest single destabilizing factor in the South African region."

● **JOHN BATTERSBY** reports from London that a British Foreign Office spokesman said yesterday his government called for early

progress towards "genuine democracy" in Lesotho following the coup. "We hope the period of military rule will be short and will be followed by early progress towards a genuine democracy in Lesotho."

Western experts agreed yesterday that the credibility of the new government would be tested with its handling of the "refugee problem".

If the new military council took early steps to expel refugees of the African National Congress (ANC) then it would be seen as a "puppet of Pretoria" and was unlikely to retain the support of King Moshoeshoe, the experts said.

● **KwaZulu** leader Chief Gatsha Buthelezi, speaking in an interview in London hours after the coup, said Lesotho would have to accept the fact that it would be a captive of the South African "regime" for "a very long time" — Political Staff and Sapa

Lesotho mission in talks with SA

AR 6645 2/11/86

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A DELEGATION from Maseru will be in South Africa today to discuss relations between Lesotho and South Africa following the overthrow of Chief Leabua Jonathan.

The talks will take place either in Cape Town

South Africa's deputy-director of foreign affairs, Mr Neil van Heerden, confirmed this today and said the Foreign Minister, Mr Pik Botha, might be at the talks.

Mr van Heerden, who has been in contact with the new regime, said the developments in Lesotho could lead only to an improvement in relations.

South Africa has made it clear the border "blockade" will be maintained until Lesotho ends the ANC presence there.

The new military regime has acted quickly in key political areas at home.

In its first hours in power the new government, apparently headed by Major-General Justin Lekhanya

● Began disarming the militant youth wing of deposed Prime Minister Jonathan's Basotho National Party — the wing's growing belligerence appears to have helped trigger the coup.

● Smoothly continued negotiations begun in Pretoria last week to mend relations with South Africa.

The overthrow of Chief Jonathan was celebrated by cheering crowds in Maseru's main street, Kingsway, yesterday.

or Pretoria "Party" flag

The apparently spontaneous demonstrations, in which soldiers were cheered, indicated that Chief Jonathan's government was unpopular in spite of his claims to the contrary.

Some demonstrators pulled down the flag of Lesotho which incorporates the colours of Jonathan's party and is said to be regarded by many Basotho as a BNP rather than a national flag.

Last night the streets were deserted following the imposition of a dusk-to-dawn curfew.

No evidence has emerged to support speculation that South Africa had a hand in the toppling of Chief Jonathan, whose alleged reluctance to impose strict curbs on ANC operations in Lesotho prompted the border crackdown.

Political observers here believe talks with South Africans yesterday did not result from the coup but were a continuation of the negotiations started last week in Pretoria.



Members of the Lesotho Para-Military Force show off their mixture of American fatigues, British sweaters and Eastern Bloc assault rifles after deposing Prime Minister Leabua Jonathan.

Defence Force

The South African delegation is believed to have been led by Mr van Heerden.

A spokesman for the Defence Force confirmed today that Defence Force members were part of the South African delegation. He said the discussions followed a similar meeting held last Friday in Lesotho.

The new regime's crackdown on the BNP youth wing began with an appeal over Radio Lesotho today for them to hand in weapons given to them by the Jonathan regime.

The new government also broadcast an appeal to Maseru residents to attend a prayer rally on Sunday at Thaba Bosigo, the mountain which has become a national shrine in honour of the first King Moshoeshoe's stand there against the Boers.

Political Correspondent, The Argus Africa News Service and Sapa.

Maker dead

and businessman was shot
firearm was found next to
name "Scotty" Nyashengo
Moorosi, Boksburg
at his home about 7am
the only funeral parlour

National flags torn as military ousts Chief Jonathan

JOY IN

LESOTHO



JONATHAN. Home

THE government of Chief Leabua Jonathan was toppled yesterday — and hundreds of people gathered in the streets, singing, ululating and chanting while youths pulled down the national flag

Radio Lesotho yesterday said the kingdom's 1 500-man para-military force under Major-General Justin Lekhanya, had overthrown the man who has been prime minister for the past 20 years

The radio said "The general affairs and administration of this country is under the military council. This would be under the direct administration of the commander of the armed forces, Major-General J M Lekhanya with the King (Moshoeshoe II) as head of state"

Reports reaching The SOWETAN from residents in Lesotho said youths tore national flags in Maseru

The flags were pulled from government buildings and strewn in the streets in a show of support for the new military ruler who is described as not being interested in politics

As news of the coup spread through the city buses and lorries carrying vigilantes from rural areas crawled in. No incidents were reported by the police. An army officer in a Landrover drove around appealing for calm through a loud hailer

Radio Lesotho was also said to be playing martial music earlier yesterday but later switched to country and western music. An announcement of the take-

By SELLO RABOTHATA and SA Press Association

over, in Sotho and English, was repeated at short intervals

The announcement which took over the 7am slot, said the step has been taken to instal peace and national reconciliation which has been a problem of politicians in Lesotho

The whole nation was urged to co-operate and avoid unnecessary conflict

Rebels

It said "The normal activities of the government will temporarily be the responsibility of the military council and the formal principal secretaries. The police and foreign companies should carry out their activities as if nothing has happened. We wish you will give us maximum support and co-operation"

By late yesterday there was no news of Chief Jonathan's plans

He told foreign journalists at his country residence that South Africa had instigated the insurrection by 35 rebels of the Lesotho army last

week

He said the insurrection was the result of "South African inspired discontent which was meant to confuse the Basotho and make them disloyal to the country and government"

Chief Jonathan was ironically toppled by the man in whom he had expressed confidence and described as "a good and mature soldier who prefers to remain in the barracks in preference to the attractions of political power"

Shortly before the announcement of the coup Mr Pak Botha, Minister of Foreign Affairs, was quoted by the SABC as calling Chief Jonathan the biggest single destabilising factor in Lesotho

After the coup was announced Mr Botha said he did not want to comment until it was completely clear what had happened and what direction the new government would take

The Azanian People's Organisation (Azapo)

To Page 2 →

Airport closed

From Page 1

said in a statement: "We are anxiously awaiting developments that will return Lesotho to stability and call on the international community to intervene immediately to put a stop to Pretoria's interference in Lesotho's affairs and flagrant violations of international law in imposing sanctions and other measures. We call on Lesotho citizens to rally round their legitimate leaders"

The British Government said it hoped military rule in Lesotho would be short and be followed by early progress towards genuine democracy

A brief statement is-

Address _____

Phone _____

sued by the Foreign Office said the government was awaiting further detailed reports of the situation in the country

Lesotho's Moshoeshoe I International Airport near Maseru was closed after the announcement

Meanwhile the Lesotho side of the border remains open and traffic across the border flowed normally

The whereabouts of Chief Jonathan, who had ruled the kingdom since independence from Britain in 1966, and his cabinet, were uncertain

A military officer in charge at Radio Lesotho said Chief Jonathan was at his home near Maseru

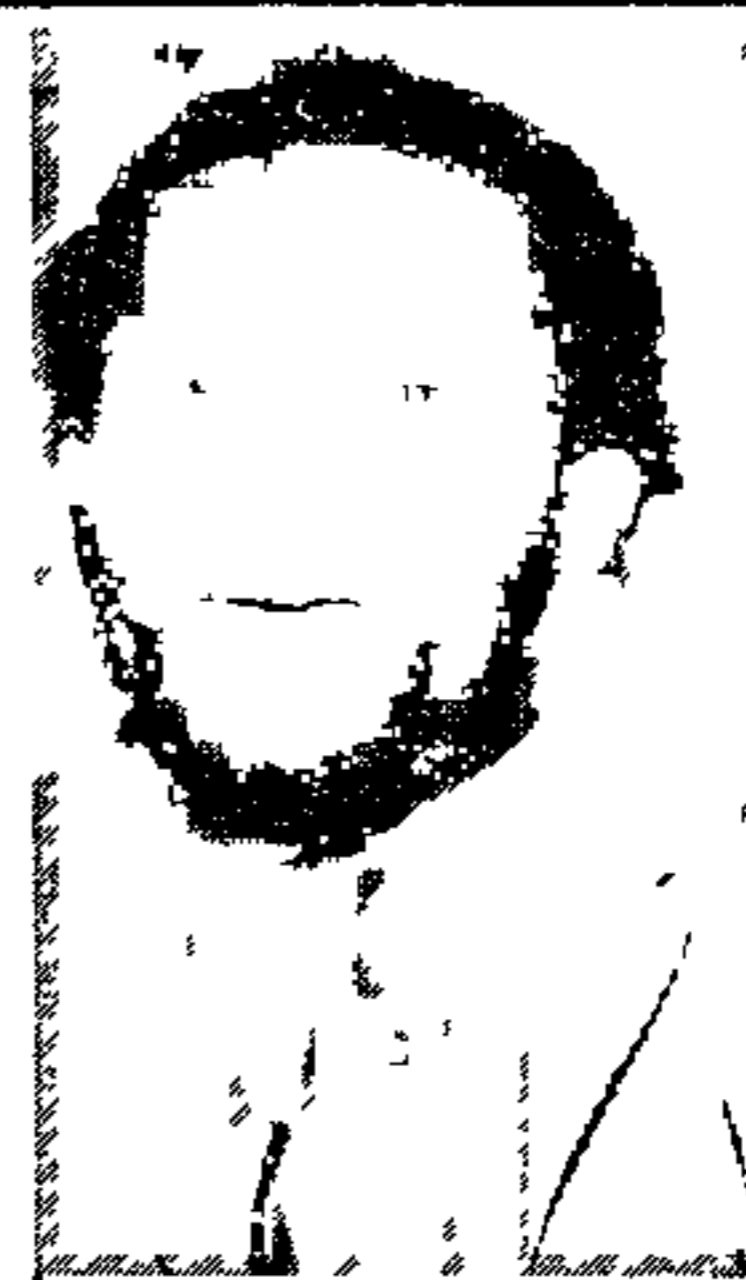
He added the former Prime Minister was not under house arrest "In fact, it is as if nothing has happened here," he said

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What is in store for the Basotho?



Dr JONATHAN



Mr MOKHEHLE



King MOSHOESHOE

Basotho?

SECRETARY
167
01/1/86

WHAT will happen in Lesotho now that Dr Leabua Jonathan — once South Africa's former blue-eyed boy who ruled the tiny mountain kingdom with an iron-fist for 20 years — has lost power after a bloodless coup?

A Soweto-based Lesotho national who would not be named, yesterday said there were several hundreds of his self-exiled compatriots working in South Africa who were so excited about the coup that they were preparing to go back to their families.

He said he was one of many Basothos who have taken either Bophuthatswana or Transkei passports in order to ensure their continued stay in South Africa because they feared going back home.

"The harassment suffered by people known to have been supporters of the Basutoland Congress Party (BCP) under Mr Ntsu Mokhehle, has been such that it was dangerous for many people to remain in Lesotho."

Jubilation

"There is jubilation all over here, in the mines and in all pre-dominantly Sotho residential areas inside South Africa. We are all looking forward to a new government that will be led by Mr Mokhehle," he said.

But what has Major-General Justin Lekhanya, the man who staged yesterday morning's coup got to offer to the kingdom which boasts a population of about 1.5-million?

Yesterday, Radio Lesotho was quoted as saying that General Lekhanya, who is commander of the Lesotho Para-Military Force, would govern the country with the assistance

By SAM MABE

of a military council and principal secretaries of various state departments.

Described as a competent soldier with no interest in politics, General Lekhanya, who is loyal to King Moshoeshoe II, is said to be in favour of keeping the king as head of state, though with wider executive powers than he has had under Dr Jonathan's rule.

But how long his new government will remain in control of Lesotho and whether or not there are chances of elections being called, remains to be seen.

The seizure of power by the 1 500-strong military force is reported to have been the result of differences over

- Dr Jonathan's approach to power,
- His growing links with communist bloc countries,

FOCUS

- His relationship with the African National Congress in Lesotho, and
- The lawlessness of the ruling party's youth league.

The whereabouts and the fate of Dr Jonathan and members of his Cabinet are still unknown. But Lesotho has an angry population that may want to revenge itself over the atrocities of Dr Leabua's forces against them.

Many people who were dancing and singing in the streets of Lesotho's capital, Maseru yesterday, were recalling incidents such as the Thaba-Bosiu meeting that had been convened by King Moshoeshoe II in 1966.

Dr Jonathan was opposed to the king addressing the nation. He feared that he might stir the emotions of the people and win their sympathies if he were to speak against Leabua's rule.

Government forces took King Moshoeshoe away from his traditional home in Matsieng and held him under house arrest, while in many parts of the country many people were gunned

down by soldiers.

Others recalled the activities of Koeeko, the most feared secret police which has conducted night raids and killed leading opponents of Dr Jonathan's regime.

There are other incidents of atrocities by the ruling party's youth league who burnt houses and shops belonging to known supporters of the opposition BCP.

Many people were killed, women raped and others tortured by having their hair, beards and private parts burnt. Some people were even soaked in petrol and set alight.

Targets

In Soweto yesterday, some Lesotho nationals were naming certain cabinet ministers and employees in certain government departments as targets of their revenge.

But King Moshoeshoe might not allow this to happen. He will be able to minimise or eliminate possibilities of lawlessness and a revenge campaign that many Basothos might want to launch.

He stands a better chance of bringing political stability to Lesotho because his image transcends political ideologies in Lesotho.

Should he be given powers to appoint a new government, chances are that he will appoint more

acceptable leaders who for the time being might bring normality back to Lesotho.

And what about Lesotho's relations with South Africa and the future of the ANC in Lesotho and the role of Mr Mokhehle in the new government?

King Moshoeshoe does not seem to care very much for South Africa because of her race policies, but General Lekhanya is a pragmatist who might want to give in to some of South Africa's demands such as eliminating all ANC elements in Lesotho, if only to keep peace.

Mr Mokhehle would win the support of the majority of Basothos should he be suggested as Lesotho's next Prime Minister. But he is old and his health has of late been giving him problems.

Besides, South Africa, reported to have helped him in the formation of the Lesotho Liberation Army (LLA) and supported its activities inside Lesotho, would not be too keen to have him as a new neighbour.

And if it is true that he is presently living in South Africa and under the control of the security police, will he be allowed to go back to Lesotho to run a government which by right should have been under him after the 1970 elections he was poised to win?

SPARK
2/11/86 167

Top Lesotho officials due in SA for talks on ANC

A top-level Lesotho delegation is due in South Africa today to continue the crucial discussions on the presence of the ANC in the mountain kingdom.

South Africa has said to Lesotho that its intensified border security measures will not be eased significantly until it is satisfied that effective action will be taken against ANC activists in Lesotho.

The talks started in Pretoria on Friday and it is believed they were continued by a South African delegation, headed by Mr Neil van Heerden, Deputy Director-General of Foreign Affairs and head of the Department's Africa section, in Lesotho yesterday.

While no official statement has been made, it is understood a delegation of senior Lesotho officials is due in Cape Town this afternoon for further talks on a situation which is throttling Lesotho economically and which may have helped trigger the weekend military coup.

It is understood the South African Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Pik Botha, will attend the discussions.

Major-General Justin Lekhan-ye, the commander of the Lesotho Paramilitary Force, which toppled Chief Leabua Jonathan, was a member of the delegation to Pretoria on Friday.

He will not attend today's meeting, but will be represented by a senior military officer.

South Africa introduced the security measures on the Lesotho border because, it claimed, the Jonathan Government had allowed itself to be used by the ANC.

Today, Zimbabwe's main newspaper, *The Herald*, reported that a South African military delegation was in Maseru yesterday.

However, the report almost certainly refers to the delegation headed by Mr van Heerden which would have included military, police and intelligence officers, as did both the Lesotho and South African delegations at the talks on Friday.

It is understood the South Africans have eased the border controls as a gesture to the new government in Maseru.

Major General Lekhanya who headed yesterday's coup

Cheerful soldiers drive through Maseru after the takeover yesterday

Chanting crowds through a street in central Maseru.

Lesotho: military council in charge

Pres Matanzima happy at takeover

Dispatch Reporters

UTATA — Transkei's President Kaiser Matanzima said yesterday that he was happy about the military takeover in Lesotho by the military.

I think all Western countries who respect democracy will condone the control of Lesotho by the army and the deposition of Chief Leabua Jonathan who had also taken over by force.

I have told him in

other speeches I have made while travelling around Transkei that Chief Jonathan should respect democracy and submit himself for re-election instead of taking over the country by force. President Matanzima said.

"I believe that all Lesotho's neighbours, including South Africa will be happy about this event."

The new military

government is anti ANC, and I am confident and I hope that King Moshoeshoe II will not tolerate any ANC supporters in his country, President Matanzima said.

He also said he was happy that Transkei dissidents would be expelled from Lesotho and on their return to Transkei they would be given the 'treatment they deserved'.

He said the ANC were murderers and he would treat anyone who infiltrated Transkei or any ANC refugees as such.

I am happy about the takeover by the army and they will surely rule the country with the blessing of their king.

I support anybody ousted by commoners as I am also a traditional leader and have stood for re-election by my people since becoming the leader of Transkei," he said.

He also said he would be retiring honourably even though he had stood for election only two years ago.

I forecast on January 11 at Maluti during a farewell speech to my people there that Chief Jonathan would not last as I foresaw trouble looming in Lesotho," he said.

He said although he was against takeovers by military rulers in Africa events in Lesotho justified this takeover.

Transkei's Foreign Affairs and Information Minister Mr Mtshuzeli Lujabe said the Transkei Government would adopt a "wait-and-see" attitude towards the policy of the new military regime in Lesotho.

He said that relations between Transkei and Lesotho had been good over the matter of Lesotho citizens travelling between Quthus Nek through Maluti to South Africa and he hoped that the new government would maintain these relations.

JOHANNESBURG — The government of the Lesotho Prime Minister, Chief Leabua Jonathan, has been overthrown in a bloodless coup by Major-General Justice Lekhanya, head of the country's paramilitary force.

Radio Lesotho announced at 6 am yesterday that Gen Lekhanya the head of the 1500 strong force had taken power.

The general affairs and administration of Lesotho would be taken over by a military council under the head of state King Moshoeshoe II the announcement said.

The announcement repeated several times during the day said.

This step has been taken to instal peace and national reconciliation which has been a problem of politicians in Lesotho.

The whole nation is urged to co-operate and avoid unnecessary conflict.

Lesotho's Moshoeshoe II international airport near Maseru was closed and all flights were cancelled.

General Lekhanya announced a curfew from 6 pm to 6 am in Maseru and in all district towns for the protection of the citizens of the country.

Soon after the coup South Africa eased its blockade of Lesotho sending in the first train load of food and petrol this year.

The whereabouts of the ousted Prime Minister and his cabinet were uncertain.

A military officer in charge at Radio Lesotho said Chief Jonathan was at his home near Maseru but was not under house arrest.

Residents welcomed the bloodless coup he said. Many people seem to be really happy. When they saw the troops people were chanting and singing and waving at the soldiers.

Marching crowds filled the streets of Maseru as the news spread.

The South African Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Pik Botha said South Africa would welcome any lessening of tension in Lesotho and any move that contributed towards greater stability on the two countries border.

Hours before the coup Chief Jonathan — who has ruled the kingdom since independence from Britain in 1966 — expressed his confidence in Gen Lekhanya.

He told foreign journalists the army chief was a good and mature soldier who prefers to remain in the barracks in preference to the attractions of political power.

Gen Lekhanya who is said to be anti-communist last week represented the Lesotho Government at talks with South African officials on the border crisis.

He is reputed to be a staunch Catholic.

Meanwhile the five opposition parties are reported to have welcomed the overthrow of Chief Jonathan's government and said they were willing to serve under Gen Lekhanya — Sapa.

Editorial opinion P8
Another report P9

UK hopes for progress, democracy

Dispatch Correspondent

LONDON — The British Government yesterday called for early progress towards genuine democracy in Lesotho following a bloodless military coup at the weekend.

"We hope the period of military rule will be short and will be followed by early progress towards a genuine democracy in Lesotho," a British Foreign Office spokesman said.

Meanwhile the Progressive Federal Party's spokesman on foreign affairs Mr Colin Eglin said in Cape Town yesterday South Africa's heavy handed blockade of Lesotho's borders had undoubtedly brought the fragile political situation in that country to a head.

Mr Eglin said the economic pressure exercised by the Republic on its 'desperately weak and economically dependent neighbour had clearly affected the stability of Lesotho.

Mr Eglin said the question whether South Africa or its agents had had any direct hand in the coup in Lesotho could not be answered at this stage.

Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi the KwaZulu leader said in London yesterday Lesotho would have to accept that it

would be a captive of the South African 'regime' for a very long time."

Speaking in an interview only hours after news of the coup broke in London Chief Buthelezi said that the new government in Lesotho would have to find a modus vivendi with South Africa despite their very big differences on human rights.

In Johannesburg the South African Institute of Foreign Affairs said the military coup in Lesotho was exactly what the South African Government was looking for.

Mr Brian Bench senior researcher at the institute said the seizure of power by Major-General Justin Lekhanya was 'a classic case of economic coercion producing the desired political result'.

Fuel: industry, dept do sums

Dispatch Correspondent

DURBAN — It was now almost certain there would be no further fuel price increase although calculations were still being made. A Mineral and Energy Affairs Department spokesman said yesterday.

The rand-dollar rate yesterday afternoon was \$0 428 438. The spokesman said he was certain there would be no six cents a litre increase announcement.

It is on the verge of the area where no increase is necessary, he said adding that calculations with the oil industry were still under negotiation. An official announcement about the price was not too far in the future.

Pollock expected at wicket despite his broken hand

By SY LERMAN

JOHANNESBURG — Graeme Pollock yesterday padded up at The Wanderers and intimated he is prepared to add his name to the band of gallant cricketers who have gone to the crease in a Test match with a broken limb.

The 42 year old master batsman of South African cricket said categorically at The Wanderers after breaking his right hand above the knuckles on Saturday that he would not resume his regal imperious innings of 51.

Yet through it all there was always the suspicion that a man of Pollock's immense character would make himself available if the Springboks plight

was serious enough.

And with Springbok wickets falling at regular intervals yesterday it was clear that even a one handed Pollock was badly needed.

One handed heroes have made their mark in Test cricket before. The Honourable Lionel Tennyson did it for England as far back as 1921 and West Indian Malcolm Marshall flayed the England attack with a broken left hand in 1984.

Paul Terry in the same series bravely came to the crease with a broken limb to help South African born Allan Lamb reach his century.

When play resumes at 10 30 today expect to see Pollock.

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Maseru quiet after military action

BUSINESS DAY 21/1/86

(167)

MASERU — All was quiet in the streets of Maseru and business was going on as usual yesterday morning. There were few armed forces to be seen.

Major-General Justin Lekhonya, commander of the country's para-military force, is heading a military council that has taken over government.

A Sapa reporter saw two armoured vehicles outside the offices of Radio Lesotho. A young soldier there told him "We have taken over."

Radio Lesotho said the coup was aimed at restoring peace and national reconciliation in the country, which had been subjected to a crippling economic clampdown on its borders by SA since January 1.

"The police and foreign companies should carry out their activities as if nothing has happened," said the radio announcement, which was broadcast at 15-minute intervals yesterday.

Marchal music was played between the broadcasts and regular programmes appeared to have been suspended.

The radio gave no details of the whereabouts of Chief Leabua Jonathan, who met foreign reporters in the garden of his house at the weekend and told them SA was behind last week's rebellion in the para-military force in which four rebels and one loyal soldier died.

Jonathan had ruled Lesotho since independence from Britain in 1966, seizing power in 1970 when it appeared his Basutoland National Party was losing the general election.

He suspended the constitution, jailed political opponents and reduced the authority of King Moshoeshoe II to that of a figurehead, sending him into exile in Europe for several months.

Jonathan said at the weekend that he was still firmly in control of the country, and government sources said then that the leader of the attempted coup, Sehlabo Sehlabo, a colonel in the para-military force, had been arrested. As news of the coup spread through

this sprawling capital and outlying areas, hundreds of people gathered in the streets, some of them singing and chanting in celebration. Police said there had been no incidents.

Yesterday's announcement appeared to signal that General Lekhonya had joined hands with Colonel Sehlabo Sehlabo to topple Jonathan, who had adopted an increasingly critical attitude towards SA in recent years.

The announcement said Lekhonya would head a military council and that King Moshoeshoe II would remain head of state.

It did not give the size of the council but said it would conduct the normal activities of government in conjunction with the permanent secretaries of the different ministries.

Western diplomatic sources in Lesotho said the new military council was expected to co-operate with SA, which unsuccessfully put pressure on Jonathan over the past 18 months to sign a non-aggression treaty similar to treaties it had signed with Mozambique and Swaziland. — Sapa-Reuter

Looking back on Jonathan's track record

MASERU — Lesotho, formerly the British protectorate of Basutoland, is totally surrounded by South Africa, covers an area of 30 340 square kilometres, and has a population of 1.5-million.

Lesotho has no standing army, only a para-military unit estimated in 1983 to have 1 460 men.

The country has a Gross National Product of about 1 000m. Per capita income is about R690. About 40% of the male population work as contract labourers in South Africa, many of them in

ALAN RUDDOCK

THE SA government has denied it played a role in yesterday's coup in Lesotho, despite the insistence of Chief Leabua Jonathan's government that SA set out to de-stabilise Lesotho and force a change of government.

The blockade imposed on January 1 was initially seen as a show of strength by Pretoria. However, as the pressure increased and cracks began to show in Jonathan's control, Maseru sources say Pretoria took the decision to force a change of government.

Pretoria's distaste for Jonathan and his obvious sympathy for the ANC has been in marked contrast to its féling of Lesotho's opposition parties and the support it allegedly gives the Lesotho Liberation Army.

Bryan Bench of the SA Institute of International Relations says, "In General Justin Lekhonya, Lesotho now has a man in charge who will pander to SA's needs."

The five opposition leaders detained by Jonathan on their return from Pretoria were suspected by Jonathan of encouraging an increase in the blockade and the destabilisation of Lesotho.

Jonathan's Information Minister Desmond Sixtsho publicly castigated the SABC last week. Two SABC camera crews were subsequently expelled.

Despite constant denials by Sixtsho that there had been any change in the

SA denies backing Lesotho takeover

status quo, it became clear Lekhonya was moving to centre stage.

On Thursday night a senior Botswana delegation, due to be hosted by Jonathan, held discussions with Lekhonya instead. Friday's Lesotho delegation to Pretoria was headed by Lekhonya.

The bottom line for Pretoria to lift the border blockade of Lesotho is the handing over of SA refugees and ANC operatives. However, it is by no means certain that King Moshoeshoe will allow Lekhonya to acquiesce blindly to Pretoria's demands.

Moshoeshoe is enormously popular in Lesotho and has now apparently, regained the powers he held before 1970. Bench says Moshoeshoe is "a sympathiser to the (Black Nationalist) cause and he will continue to provide refuge for legitimate refugees."

Don't ↓

Bus day
21/1/86

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Looking back on
Jonathan's track
Record

X account for nearly half of the kingdom's GNP. Diamond finishing is the main local industry.

Two years after Chief Leabua Jonathan aborted the only post-independence general election in 1970, when it appeared his ruling Basutoland National Party (BNP) would lose the vote, he set up a nominated National Assembly (parliament).

The opposition Basutoland Congress Party (BCP) split after Jonathan's coup.

BCP leader Ntsu Mokhehle and some supporters fled into exile and later founded the Lesotho Liberation Army (LLA), military wing of the BCP.

Mokhehle has refused to take part in any election unless conducted under United Nations supervision.

Since 1979 the LLA has carried out a series of bombings and sabotage.

The campaign escalated with the assassination of a cabinet minister in August 1982 and a rocket attack on Jonathan's house in July 1983.

In December 1982, 42 people were killed in a surprise raid by SA troops on houses in Maseru.

In mid-1985, Jonathan dissolved his national assembly in preparations for a general election in September.

But the poll did not take place after opposition parties boycotted it — Sapa-Reuter.

US GOVT SAYS

Jonathan's

ouster is an

internal matter

The Star Bureau

WASHINGTON — In a guarded response yesterday, the US Government described the coup in Lesotho as an "internal matter of another country" and said there were no indications that the new ruling group bore any hostility to the US

In Washington, telephone calls went unanswered at the Lesotho Embassy. It is possible the embassy was closed in honour of the first national Martin Luther King public holiday

Citing news reports of Chief Leabua Jonathan's ouster and Radio Lesotho's announcement of a temporary ruling military council, a US official said it appeared the new ruling group remained loyal to the King

"We have no comment on how the apparent change of government in Lesotho would affect that country's troubled relationship with South Africa," he said

AMERICAN CITIZENS

"Our embassy in Lesotho reports that the situation is calm and at no time were any American citizens in danger.

"We do not anticipate that the situation in Lesotho will pose any threat to our citizens," the official said.

"The Department of State has no further comment on what is an internal matter of another country, except to note that we have no indication that the ruling group bears any hostility toward the US," he added.

Relations between the US and Lesotho under the former Prime Minister were generally friendly — and are expected to remain so

When the new Lesotho Ambassador, Mr. Leshele Abelthoahane, arrived in Washington last November, President Reagan said he shared Lesotho's view that apartheid was a root cause of the region's problems.



King Moshoeshoe II

By John D'Olivera, Editor of The Star's Africa News Service

MASERU — Politics in this tiny kingdom have been turned upside down by the weekend military coup

OUT is Chief Leabua Jonathan, the strong man who has ruled Lesotho for 20 years and who staged his own coup when he suspended the constitution in 1970 rather than face an election defeat

IN is Major-General Justin Lekhanye, commander of Lesotho's Paramilitary Force (PMF) and a former commander of the Lesotho Police Mobile Unit (PMU) which helped crush opposition to Chief Jonathan's Government

IN is King Moshoeshoe II, the 47-year-old, Oxford-educated constitutional monarch who was once forced to abdicate by Chief Jonathan and who, this week, saw the military topple the 71-year-old Jonathan and offer the King a more important role in the country's government

OUT are policies which have led to increasing confrontation with South Africa, closer links with the Eastern bloc and increased African National Congress activity in Lesotho

APPARENT GOOD TERMS

OUT may be the 80 or so ANC activists who (South Africa has alleged) train ANC members in Lesotho, plan attacks on South Africa and then send their trances across the border to sow death and destruction

IN may be a new attempt to move troubled Lesotho to the kind of consensus politics practised by Lesotho's national hero, King Moshoeshoe I, who forged the Basotho nation out of the remnants of the tribes which had fled the wars in Southern Africa in the early part of the nineteenth century

For some years, Chief Jonathan has been on apparently good terms with the King and the King has increasingly represented Lesotho at international meetings

But it is unlikely that King Moshoeshoe will ever forget his treatment after independence — or, for that matter, ever forgive Chief Jonathan for forcing him to abdicate and to go into exile

The INs and OUTs of Lesotho's bloodless coup



Chief Leabua Jonathan



Members of Lesotho's Paramilitary Force show their jubilation over the success of Monday's military coup which ousted Prime Minister Chief Leabua Jonathan

Having narrowly won the 1965 pre-independence election (in part because of South African help), Chief Jonathan led Lesotho to independence a year later

Seeking to consolidate his power, Chief Jonathan soon found himself in conflict with the young King. In response to the King's demands for a measure of power, the Prime Minister confined him to his palace, deported some of his top advisers and forced him to sign an undertaking to refrain from "interfering" in politics

In 1970, Chief Jonathan believed he would win the first post-independence election

When the election count suggested that his Basuto National Party would lose the election, Chief Jonathan labelled the election "invalid", declared a state of emergency, suspended the constitution, admitted that he had seized power and suspended sittings of the High Court

King Moshoeshoe II was placed under house arrest after an allegation by Chief Jonathan that the King had intervened actively in politics by advising a meeting of chiefs two days before the election to canvass support for the opposition

the opposition
The military considered the Youth League undisciplined, dangerous and a threat to the armed forces. The Youth League, in turn, considered the military disloyal (and said so in public) and thus dangerous to the Jonathan Government. Then came the dispute over the South African "blockade"

Hardliners in the Jonathan Cabinet wanted confrontation. They wanted to internationalise the dispute by organising a massive — and highly publicised — airlift of essentials to Lesotho

It is understood that the Jonathan Government agreed to talk to South Africa not because it saw a prospect of eliminating the ANC presence in Lesotho but because it wanted to appear reasonable and conciliatory while it was setting up the airlift

The response to the airlift was disappointing and it was clear by the middle of last week that Lesotho was sinking deeper into a damaging confrontation with South Africa

OFFICE SURROUNDED

On Wednesday General Lekhanye went to see Chief Jonathan while his soldiers surrounded the Prime Minister's office to "protect" him from "disturbances in the Youth League"

The man who had run Lesotho was told by the man who had helped him maintain his rule for so many years that the military was unhappy with the Government's policies and that, while the military was not overtly taking power, it expected the Government to listen to its demands in future

On Friday night the top-level official delegation which had negotiated in Pretoria over the border problems returned to Lesotho with South Africa's unequivocal demand get rid of the ANC or the intensified security measures at the border will remain in force

It is believed that, when this demand was set before the Jonathan Government, a situation developed which precipitated the military takeover during Sunday night — within hours of a Press conference at which Chief Jonathan claimed he was in complete charge of his country

UK journal blames SA for coup

The Star Bureau

LONDON — Lesotho has become the first victim of South African destabilisation to suffer a full-blown coup as a result, *The Guardian* says in a leading article on the ousting of Chief Jonathan

But one of the more surprising aspects of the coup in the defenceless Southern African kingdom was that it was so long in coming

"South Africa has been playing cat and mouse with Lesotho ever since it was given independence by Britain in 1966." It was happy to support Lesotho, but when Chief Jonathan began to bite the hand that fed him, relations with Pretoria began to seaway, the paper reports

South Africa's insistence that ANC guerrillas were being tolerated by the regime overlooked how the desperately poor country was unable to police its wild terrain and so prevent ANC units from slipping in and out South African intervention could accomplish no more

But the latter "does enable Pretoria to show how resolutely it fights terrorism especially when the target is so conveniently feeble"

But, warns *The Guardian*, "such ruthlessness also reminds all South Africa's neighbours that Pretoria cannot be trusted"

"The coup is a stark reminder that apartheid is not only a South African problem but one which is capable of disrupting the whole of Southern Africa"

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STAR 21/1/8

The general who succeeds Leabua

GENERAL Justin Lekhanya, the military commander who heads Lesotho's Government following Sunday night's coup, is described as a highly competent soldier with no interest in politics but intensely patriotic to his country.

He is said to be extremely loyal to King Moshoeshoe II, who is expected to continue as head of state but with greater executive powers than those allowed him by the deposed Prime Minister Leabua Jonathan

General Lekhanya is described as a pragmatic man who is likely to favour close economic and other relations with South Africa. He is thought unlikely to look favourably on these relations being strained by African National Congress operations from Lesotho. In the first hours of the coup, however, the general remained a shadowy figure who has kept out of the public eye up to now and about whom very little is known.

SOWETAN

An associate who has had close professional dealings with the general described him as an extremely likeable man who had preferred to keep a low profile outside of his military duties.

Although a strict disciplinarian, the general was well-liked by his men and appeared to have their loyalty, the associate said.

Guns (10)

"He is a very good soldier, very patriotic and very efficient and honest. He appears to be a political — in fact he seems to have a contempt for politicians."

Sources said that before the coup the general appeared to have treated the then prime minister Jonathan with strict courtesy and respect and had shown no overt dislike of Chief Jonathan or his policies.

The general, aged about 50, is married and has several children. A stocky, clean-shaven man of "medium height," he is said to have a strong handshake.

He is believed to have served all his professional life with the Lesotho Para-Military Force (PMF) that he now commands and before that with its predecessor, the Police Mobile Unit (PMU).

A keen flier, he collects guns as a hobby and spends much of his spare time on his small farm near Maseru. General Lekhanya is said to have a wide gen-

SOWETAN Correspondent

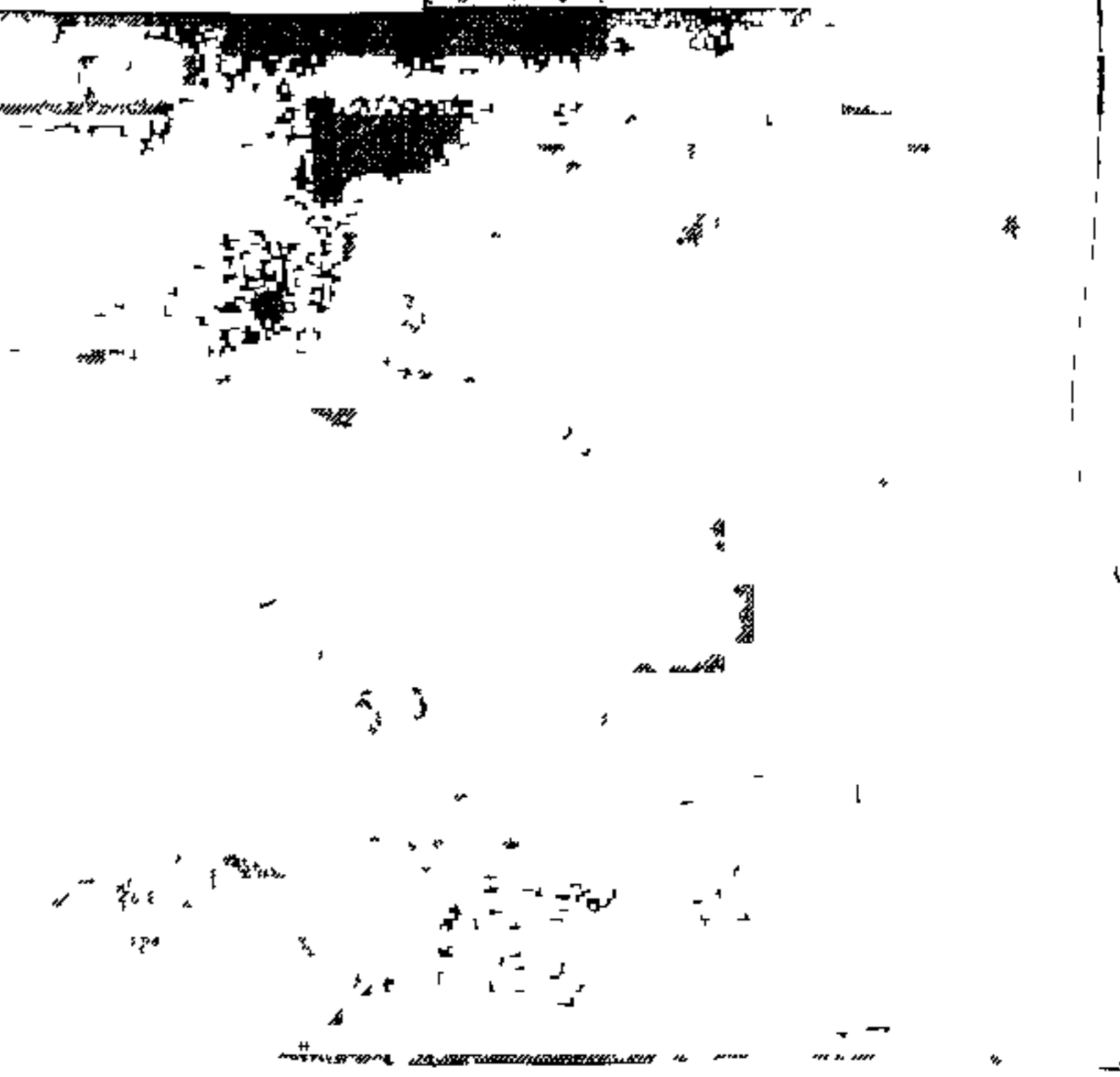
As a military man he is thought to have no economic expertise but is said to have maintained a strict and efficient watch over the finances of the PMF.

It was not immediately known whether he received any military training in other countries.

He is said to have a firm belief in the benefits to Lesotho of economic co-operation with South Africa. Unlike some members of the Cabinet who are said to be opposed to the Highlands Water Project being undertaken jointly with South Africa, the general is said to have supported it strongly.

Following the example of other countries, such as Peru and Sri Lanka, the general is said to have followed a policy of allowing the PMF's five helicopters to be used for civil as well as military purposes to raise additional revenue for the state.

LESOTHO'S new man at the helm, General Justin Lekhanya.



Lesotho to negotiate goodwill security pact

SA set to lift border blockade after coup

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Pauls Day 21/1/86

ALAN RUDDOCK

SOUTH AFRICA is expected to lift the three-week-old border blockade of Lesotho today in the wake of yesterday morning's paramilitary takeover in Maseru.

In a reciprocal gesture of goodwill, the new Lesotho government is expected to negotiate a joint security pact with SA as soon as it has consolidated power.

One goods train carrying fuel, food and other essential supplies was allowed through the Maseru bridge border post yesterday afternoon and another would pass through this morning, border officials said.

A spokesman for the SA-Lesotho liaison committee told *Business Day* yesterday he had been informed by the SA government that border posts would "return to normal" today.

"They have already allowed through a goods train and we will be back to business today. All the traders this side of the border are delighted. They supported government's decision to impose the blockade, but it has cost them a packet," he said



LEKHONYA

MASERU — Lesotho's new leader, General Justin Lekhonya, has been described here as "a product of British military training" who has for a long time disapproved of Chief Leabua Jonathan's association with Communist countries.

Lekhonya is not seen as a political man. Sources close to the military say the prospects of a new political alliance emerging into power under King Moshoeshoe II is likely.

Lekhonya, a former police constable maintained a low profile during the past decade. He is said to be about 45. — Sapa-Renter.

Yesterday's military action, lead by Major-General Justin Lekhonya, appeared to have been bloodless with no casualties reported since weekend clashes between paramilitary force factions that left at least four soldiers dead

Lekhonya's takeover was announced early yesterday morning by Radio Lesotho. A statement said Lesotho would be administered by a military council under head of state King Moshoeshoe II.

The military council imposed a curfew

between 6pm and 6am in Maseru last night, although a few cars and the occasional pedestrian were seen moving in the streets.

Border officials reported last night they were expecting orders from Pretoria shortly to open up the border.

PETER HONEY reports from Maseru that hundreds of jubilant Basotho danced and sang through the streets of Maseru

To Page 2

SA to lift blockade

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yesterday, tearing down vestiges of ousted Prime Minister Leabua Jonathan's rule as news of the coup spread. National flags associated with Jonathan's Basotho National Party (BNP) were torn down and signs over the Leabua highway, leading east of the capital, were ripped apart.

Some of the crowd carried wattle branches as tokens of peace. "Jonathan was repression; now people will be able to move freely," a Maseru resident told *Business Day*.

Intermittent military patrols through the streets yesterday urged calm and Lesotho radio broadcast appeals for peace after groups of youths ran through the streets calling for vengeance against members of the disbanded BNP Youth League, which Lesotho residents said had carried out a reign of oppression in recent years.

All Jonathan's cabinet ministers were reported yesterday to be either under arrest or to have fled the country.

It was not known whether Cuban Foreign Minister Ictodoro Malmerca and his delegation, who arrived on an official visit on Friday, were still in the country.

"There was no indication as to the future of the Eastern Bloc missions in Maseru, which include the Soviet Union, North Korea and the Peoples Republic of China.

JOHN BATTERSBY reports from London that the British government yesterday called for early progress towards "genuine democracy" in Lesotho after the coup.

"We hope the period of military rule will be short and will be followed by early progress towards a genuine democracy in Lesotho," a British Foreign Office spokesman said.

Asked if SA had been involved in the coup, all the spokesman would say was, "Not as far as I know."

An African National Congress spokesman said yesterday in Lusaka the ANC would issue a statement today on events in Maseru

KwaZulu leader Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi said in London yesterday the new Lesotho government would have to find a "modus vivendi" with SA despite their "very big differences on human rights"

"Bitter as it may be, the Lesotho authorities will have to accept this fact," Buthelezi said in an interview at his London hotel.

"Until the situation within SA is normalised, the neighbouring states will continue to suffer.

"It is all part of a pattern. The coup in Maseru is most definitely linked to what is happening in SA itself," Buthelezi said.

He also disclosed he had received an urgent appeal for help from four prominent opposition politicians in Lesotho eight days before the coup

Progressive Federal Party foreign affairs spokesman Colin Eghin said in a statement yesterday. "The deterioration in relations between SA and its neighbours, and the Lesotho crisis in particular, shows that apartheid, with its denial of political rights and basic human freedom, is the greatest destabilising factor in the southern African region

"Until apartheid is dismantled lock, stock and barrel, the confusion which this vile system generates inside SA will continue to spill across its borders and threaten the peace and stability of the region as a whole"

FAVOURITELY

Capt. T. J. 21/1/86

Welcomed

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MASERU. — Crowds gathered in the Lesotho capital yesterday to celebrate the overthrow of Chief Leabua Jonathan's government by the armed forces of Major-General Justin Lekhanya as South Africa ended its three-week blockade of the country.

In a statement broadcast over Radio Lesotho yesterday, General Lekhanya appealed to the people of Lesotho to bury their political differences and hatred.

He announced a curfew from 6pm to 6am in Maseru and in all district towns throughout the country for the protection of the citizens of the country.

Soon after the coup carried out at 6am South Africa eased its blockade of Lesotho, sending in the first train load of food and petrol this year.

The coup was carried out to install peace and national reconciliation in the country, Radio Lesotho announced.

It said Lesotho would come under the direct administration of a military council headed by General Lekhanya and that King Moshoeshoe II would be head of state. The announcement:



Jubilant crowds run through the streets in central Maseru yesterday

repeated several times during the day, said "This step has been taken to install peace and national reconciliation which has been a problem of politicians in Lesotho."

The whole nation is urged to co-operate and avoid unnecessary conflict. The police and the military council:

However, the Lesotho side of the border with South Africa remained open and cross-border traffic flowed normally. The whereabouts of Chief Jonathan who has ruled the kingdom since independence from Britain in 1966, and his cabinet, were uncertain.

A military officer in charge at Radio Lesotho said Chief Jonathan was at his home near Maseru and that he was not under house arrest.

Meanwhile marching, happy crowds filled the streets of Maseru as news of the coup spread. Members of the Lesotho Army gave clenched fist salutes in support of the crowds and youths tore Lesotho national flags to shreds to show their support for the military ruler.

At villages around Maseru, large crowds consisting mainly of women, ululated, danced and screamed "Away with Leabua" and "Save us Lekhanya". On Sunday, Chief

Jonathan expressed his confidence in General Lekhanya, who he said was "a good and mature soldier who prefers to remain in the barracks in preference to the attractions of political power."

He also told foreign correspondents that General Lekhanya had refused to be subjected to South African demands to take over power because he was a highly disciplined man.

Appeal

The chief also appealed to the West for an emergency airlift to combat the crippling effects of South Africa's tightening of control of its borders with Lesotho on January 1, threatening to turn to countries such as Cuba if he did not receive help.

The Cuban Foreign Minister, Mr. Isidoro Malmeira visited Lesotho at the weekend.

South Africa had denied it was blockading the enclave kingdom, maintaining tighter control was necessary to prevent infiltration by ANC insurgents.

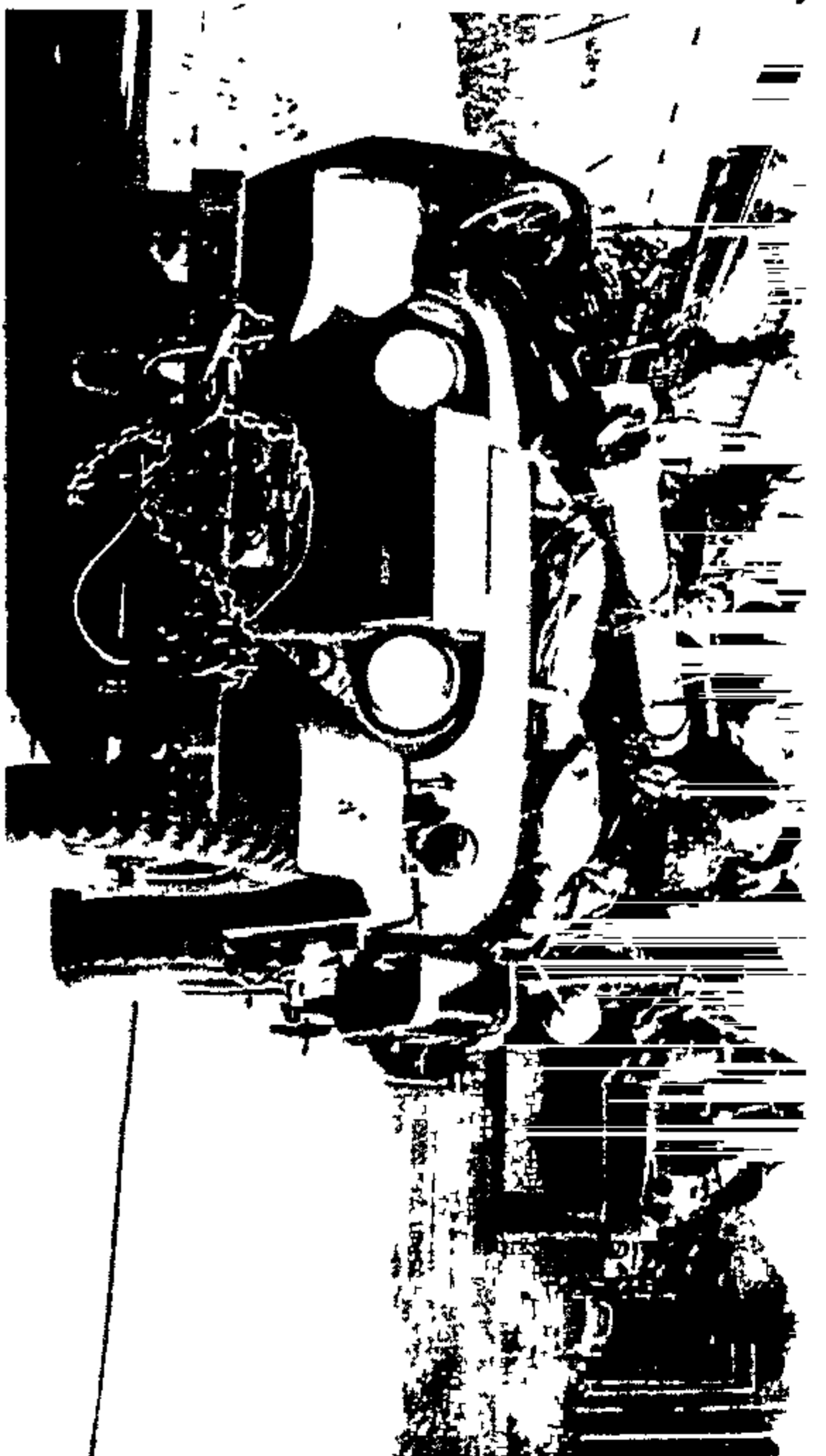
Warning

Hours before the coup the South African Foreign Minister Mr. P. Botha said Chief Jonathan was the single greatest destabilizing factor in Lesotho.

Mr. Botha warned Chief Jonathan the South African Government would not hesitate to take action should his allies pose a threat to South Africa's security.

General Lekhanya, who is said to be pro-South African and anti-communist, last week presented Lesotho at officials with South African officials with the border crisis — Sapa, UPI, Own Correspondent and Staff Reporter.

● Jonathan overthrow no surprise, page 7
● SA accused of destabilizing Lesotho, page 2



Soldiers in Maseru after yesterday's military coup in Lesotho

Royal marriage rumours in air

Own Correspondent

LONDON — Marriage rumours were again flying thick and fast after it was confirmed yesterday that Prince Andrew and his latest steady girlfriend Sarah Ferguson had spent a long weekend with the Royal Family at their Sandringham estate.

Sarah, daughter of Major Ronnie Ferguson who trains Prince Charles' polo ponies, was invited by the Queen who is reported to think highly of her.

"Prince Andrew" nicknames, has been a regular visitor to Sarah's flat in London for the past six months. At 26, she is just four months older than him and comes from a wealthy blue-blood background.

Mother tells of love letter
The couple enjoy similar social interests and he clearly enjoys her company out winning and dining as well as on his trips in the country.

While some reports have dismissed her as a typical Stoney Ranger, or rich city girl with country pretensions, friends say she is down-to-earth.

Her mother, Mrs Susan Barrantles, has caused some embarrassment by disclosing that Sarah wrote a letter saying she was deeply in love with Prince Andrew. After divorcing Susan's father, Mrs Barrantles married wealthy international polo player Hector Barrantles and now lives in Argentina.

Sarah and the prince now face an enforced end to their regular meetings as he is rejoining his ship to take part in extensive Nato military exercises.

From rags to riches

Own Correspondent

NEW YORK — Family and friends celebrated bricklayer Pasquale Consolvo's record \$30 million (£69 million) New York lottery win by smashing crockery and tearing his work clothes to shreds.

Explained son Anthony, a union organizer: "We're millionaires now. We don't have to work no more."

Mr Consolvo 59, was celebrating his 37th wedding anniversary with wife Angeline when he sent a note to a sweet shop on the corner to buy four dollars worth of tickets.

"He said, let's send Nella. She goes to church every Sunday." Anthony recalled "She'll probably bring us luck."

The prize is paid out in 21 annual instalments.

Fuel price rise 'unlikely'

Own Correspondent

DURBAN — It was now almost certain that there would be no further fuel price increase, but calculations were still being made, a Mineral and Energy Affairs Department spokesman said yesterday.

The rand-dollar rate was \$0.428/38 yesterday afternoon. If it stabilized at its present rate, the department felt an increase could be avoided — at worst the price could be slightly increased. An official announcement in this regard was not too far in the future, the spokesman said.

In November the price went up 6c a litre, based on a rand-dollar rate of \$0.38. At that time the minister, Mr Danie Steyn, said this was only half what was needed in terms of the rand's exchange rate and a further increase would be necessary "early next year" should the rate fail to improve.

Coup ousts Jonathan



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YOU PAY LES

Never a people's leader

22/1/86

22/1/86

SOWETAN

(167)

THE day on which Chief Leabua "Popompo" Jonathan was overthrown as Lesotho's Prime Minister, January 20, 1986, was the 26th anniversary of his first attempt to become a democratically elected political leader.

The attempt was unsuccessful. So were all other attempts he made in subsequent elections.

Which means that throughout his political career, Chief Jonathan has never had the backing of the ballot box to hold any position of leadership. That he became Lesotho's first Prime Minister at all, was partly because of the help he received from the late South African Prime Minister, Dr Hendrik Verwoerd, and because a party colleague abdicated his premiership in his favour.

Dr Jonathan's first failure to win the support of the people of Lesotho was during the kingdom's first elections held on January 20 1960, when he contested for one of the 162 seats for the nine District Councils of Lesotho.

His party, the Basotholand National Party (BNP) not only suffered a crushing defeat at the hands of Mr Ntsu Mokhehle's Basotholand Congress Party (BCP), but Dr Jonathan failed to win his own seat in Leribe.

THROUGHOUT his political career, Chief Leabua Jonathan of Lesotho has never had the backing of the ballot box to hold any position of leadership. The SOWETAN's senior reporter, Sam Mabe, gives us a background of Chief Leabua's political career and tells us how the man managed to keep Lesotho under a tight grip for 20 years.

the BNP, Chief Sekhonyana Maseribane, was then sworn in as Lesotho's first Prime Minister, on May 7, 1965.

This disappointed the South African Government which had channelled funds into Lesotho to help Chief Jonathan during his election campaign.

To save Chief Jonathan from the embarrassment he suffered, one of his loyalists, Mr John Mothepu, resigned his Mpharane seat in order to give Chief Jonathan a chance to try his luck in a by-election.

This move is believed to have been engineered from Pretoria because prior to Mr Mothepu's resignation, Jonathan who

height of his election campaign to enable him to get to the most inaccessible places in Lesotho with ease.

Chief Jonathan distributed the grant he received from Dr Verwoerd among the people in the Mpharane constituency where he was later to contest Mr Mothepu's seat.

Mr Mothepu had won the seat with a majority of 2 106 votes and Chief Jonathan, despite the grant he had given to the people, won the seat with a reduced majority of 1 818 votes.

This was when Chief Maseribane stepped down as Prime Minister in favour of Pretoria's blue-eyed boy, Chief Jonathan, who was sworn in on July 5, 1965.



Women and children broke into a "Toi-Toi" — a traditional festive dance — to celebrate the military overthrow of Leabua's autocratic rule

At this meeting were Mr J H Hindmarsh, Commissioner of the Lesotho Police and Fred Roach, Officer Commanding the Police Mobile Unit. The deputy Prime Minister, Chief Maseribane, opposed Chief Jonathan's resignation bid.

Chief Maseribane was supported by the two white police officers and other ministers who said they were not prepared to hand over power to Mokhehle, a "communist" who had "rigged" the elections.

It became very common in Lesotho to hear stories such as

- A man being ordered at gunpoint to have sexual relations with his daughter,
- Women being raped in full view of their husbands or parents,
- Men and women being stripped naked and sjamboked in the streets,
- People being doused with petrol or paraffin and set alight,
- A man having his private parts tied with a piece of wire and

pair of pliers,

- A pregnant woman forced to drink water from a hosepipe until her stomach became distended, and
- A stick being pushed into a man's anus.

In some parts of Lesotho, the Youth League would wipe out a whole village by setting every hut on fire, in areas where it was known that the BCP mastered a lot of support.

At one stage, Mr Desmond Sixishe, Minister of Information and Broadcasting until Monday's coup

waited at the border gate for the arrival of an issue of *Post* newspaper which carried reports and pictures of victims of Government forces' attacks.

After reading the article, he ordered the delivery van to return the whole issue to Johannesburg.

But there were people inside Lesotho who knew what was happening and probably did not like to see it happening in perpetuity. Hence Monday morning's bloodless coup.

The BCP won 28 seats, the BNP won 22 and the rest were shared by other political parties and independent candidates

Chief Jonathan could therefore not become a member of the Lesotho Legislative Council which was then running Lesotho's Government prior to independence

... Chief Jonathan was again thrown into the political wilderness because, as an individual candidate, he had performed badly in the elections. He failed to win a seat in his own constituency.

This left him in the political wilderness until he was saved by King Moshoeshoe II, who nominated him into the council when a vacancy existed at the end of 1960

In the January 27, 1965 general elections, Chief Jonathan's party did better than the BCP by winning 31 seats. The BCP got 25 and the Marematlou Freedom Party won only four of the 60 seats

But Chief Jonathan was again thrown into the political wilderness because, as an individual candidate, he had performed badly in the elections. He failed to win a seat in his own constituency

The deputy leader of

was then holding no political position, received 100 000 bags of grain from Dr Verwoerd as a "personal gift" to help the "starving people of Lesotho"

Also, prior to the 1965 elections, he was the only candidate allowed to hold public meetings and to campaign in black town-

ships and mine compounds inside the Republic of South Africa

Chief Jonathan made no secret of the fact that he received R15 000 from the South African Government and R10 000 from the Federal Republic of Germany for his election campaign

Meanwhile other political leaders in Lesotho such as Dr Sefi Makotoko, of the Marematlou Freedom Party, were banned from entering South Africa because he had refused to support Chief Jonathan

Also, an unknown person placed a helicopter at Chief Jonathan's disposal at the

The alliance between Chief Jonathan and the South African Government grew stronger and Pretoria's hand in Lesotho's internal affairs became even more visible than before

Chief Leabua then started ruling Lesotho with an iron hand. He continued receiving support from the South African Government

In the 1970 elections, many people in Lesotho had lost faith in his government and the BCP under Mr Mokhehle was becoming more and more popular. During the elections which started on January 27, it became clear that the BCP would get the majority of the 60 seats in the Parliament.

On the morning of

Chief Jonathan made no secret of the fact that he received R15 000 from the South African Government and R10 000 from the Federal Republic of Germany for his election campaign.

January 30, Chief Jonathan summoned a meeting of his Cabinet to announce that he was going to tender his resignation to the King

He informed the Cabinet that as they had lost the election, he was preparing to hand over power to Mr Mokhehle

It was at this meeting where the idea of arresting Mr Mokhehle under the guise of protecting him from excited supporters and of declaring a state of emergency and suspending the constitution of Lesotho was conceived

Chief Jonathan said he declared a state of emergency because of constitutional irregularities by the BCP. The Government-sponsored South African Broadcasting Corporation gave its full support for Chief Jonathan's action

For the people of Lesotho, the state of emergency meant assaults, torture, detentions and death. A reign of terror that was to follow under the command of Fred

Roach is one of the experiences many Basothos would rather forget

A tent had been put up in the yard of Chief Maseribane's home where people suspected of being opposed to Chief Jonathan's rule were tortured and sometimes killed.

Lesotho coup underlined ANC dominance in SA

SOWETAN
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22/1/82

SOWETAN Foreign Correspondent

COUP in Lesotho has heavily underlined the degree to which the African National Congress dominates regional relationships in southern Africa

Ever since Uhuru spread to the sub-continent, South Africa's relations with its neighbours have been tempered by their attitude to the ANC (in Angola's case its attitude to the South West African People's Organisation and, to a much lesser extent, the ANC)

In Mozambique, South Africa assisted the rebel Mozambique resistance movement in a successful attempt to force the Samora Machel government into the Nkomati mutual non-aggression pact

MNR

While South Africa agreed to cease all help to the Mozambique National Movement (MNR), Mozambique agreed to expel ANC activists and to prevent the ANC from ever again using Mozambique as a springboard for attacks on South Africa

Following a series of accusations from Mozambique that South Africa was continuing its aid to the MNR, the vaunted Nkomati Accord appears to exist in name only

Had it not been for the prospect that the People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) would help Swapo, South Africa would have been less eager to help Dr Jonas Savimbi's bid for power in Angola in 1975. And had the MPLA Government in Luanda not given massive facilities to Swapo, Dr Savimbi would have been much leaner militarily than he now is

It is also possible that the Namibian issue may have been settled

The Lusaka Agreement of 1984 laid down that Angola would keep Swapo out of a specified area in southern Angola while the South Africans agreed to pull their troops out of the same area

Ironically, despite all the propaganda from Angola, the Lusaka Agreement is more adhered to than breached

South Africa has few problems with Swaziland, which does everything within its limited powers (as much for its own political purposes



CHIEF JONATHAN



Pres MACHEL

as for South Africa's) to keep ANC activists from using facilities in the country

Botswana has claimed repeatedly that it does not allow the ANC to use its territory to plan or launch attacks on South Africa but the South African Defence Force, nevertheless, crossed the border on June 14 last year for a raid on Gaborone in which 12 people were killed and six were injured

Tension between the two countries has flared over the last few weeks following the land-mine

African Government remains suspicious — and, with every landmine explosion, it comes under increasing pressure to strike back

The real problem, however, developed in Lesotho where Chief Leabua Jonathan's Government allegedly looked the other way while the ANC effectively transferred its main operations base against South Africa from Maputo to Maseru

In December, 1982 South Africa had sent its defence force into Maseru to clean out what South Africa believed to be an ANC strong-hold. A total of 43 people were killed and a number injured

Now, towards the end of 1985, South Africa was ready to act again

When the Jonathan Government failed to "address South African concerns" over the ANC presence in the country, South Africa intensified its security measures on the common border — and reduced the flow of goods into and out of Lesotho to a trickle

And this triggered the military coup

explosions in the northern Transvaal and Mr Pk Botha's warning that South Africa would exercise its right to take whatever action it deemed necessary to protect its citizens' lives and property

The less than warm relationship with Zimbabwe also cooled dramatically over the same issue

While both Botswana and Zimbabwe denied that they had encouraged the ANC or allowed the ANC to cross their territory to lay the mines in the northern Transvaal, the South

SA-Lesotho meeting arouses optimism

CAPE TOWN — Delegations from South Africa and Lesotho today reported back to their governments after a meeting, optimistic that relations between the two countries could improve soon.

The Lesotho delegation flew back to Maseru, and in Cape Town the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Pik Botha, was expected to report to the first Cabinet meeting of the year today.

Mr Botha confirmed today that the question of the border measures South Africa had taken were discussed at yesterday's meeting. He said it could be assumed that the two governments would like to get the matter cleared up at the earliest opportunity. He did not indicate when this would be done.

Mr Botha declined to deal with the question of formal recognition by South Africa of the new regime in Lesotho, but other foreign affairs sources pointed out that such formal recognition was probably not necessary. The talks with the new regime already implied recognition which would in time become a fact.

The South African Government is clearly wary of being seen to rush in to welcome the new regime too openly, partly because of overseas insinuations about a destabilising role by South Africa and partly because the volatile situation in Lesotho could again change.

Mr Botha also declined to deal with the possibility of a security pact between the two countries.

In government circles in Cape Town, as well as Lesotho, there was optimism about relations improving.

Mr Botha headed the South

Gunfire in capital

MASERU — Gunfire lasting about seven minutes was heard in the Lesotho capital, Maseru, late last night.

Shots were heard in the vicinity of a hotel housing the Cuban delegation which arrived in Lesotho last week.

The delegation has remained in the hotel since the military takeover by the Lesotho Military Council on Monday. — Sapa.

African delegation and Mr E R Sekhonyana, a special emissary of the new military council, headed the Lesotho delegation.

In his statement after the meeting, held at the Castle amid tight security, Mr Botha said Mr Sekhonyana had explained the new political situation in Lesotho following the takeover by the military council under the chairmanship of Major General Justin Lekhanya.

"Against the background of recent events and the close economic relations between Lesotho and South Africa, Mr Botha and Mr Sekhonyana had a wide-ranging exchange of views on matters of importance to both countries which would hopefully lead to a lessening of tension," the statement said.

The two emphasised the need to work actively for the promotion of good neighbourliness.

In Maseru the military council's decision to send a delegation to Cape Town so soon after the takeover is seen as an indication of its determination to improve the strained relations

ANC in Maseru wait for reprisals

BUS DAY 22/11/86

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ALAN RUDDOCK and
PETER HONEY

MASERU — Alarmed African National Congress activists were yesterday awaiting reprisal action as pressure for their expulsion from Lesotho mounted.

Yesterday in London the opposition Basotho Congress Party, whose military wing is the Lesotho Liberation Army, called for the expulsion of ANC guerrillas from Lesotho and the restoration of diplomatic relations and "mutual security" with SA.

Reports from Maseru say there are about 11 000 SA refugees in Lesotho, but only a small number of them are considered to be ANC activists.

The bottom line in negotiations between SA and Lesotho about the lifting of the border blockade is the handing over to SA of ANC activists and other refugees that the SA government requests. Deposed Chief Leabua Jonathan consistently refused to accede to Pretoria's demands.

ANC sources said yesterday they were "extremely worried about the situation

in Maseru". They confirmed that high profile ANC members in Maseru were airlifted out of the country before Monday's coup. Those left behind are reported to be increasingly nervous of their status in Maseru.

Unconfirmed reports yesterday said some ANC activists had already been detained.

In other developments yesterday:
□ Foreign Minister Pik Botha met a delegation from the Lesotho military council in Cape Town headed by former Minister of Planning and Economic Affairs Evaristus Sekhonyana, who was sacked by Jonathan in 1984. Both "emphasised the need to work actively for the promotion of good neighbourliness," a foreign affairs spokesman said.
□ The Soviet ambassador to Lesotho

● To Page 2 →

Pressure on ANC mounts

BUS DAY 22/11/86

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● From page 1 ←

twice held talks with Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca in a Lesotho hotel yesterday. Both men refused to comment on the exchanges.

□ A SADF spokesman confirmed that members of the security forces had accompanied a SA delegation, headed by deputy director general of Foreign Affairs, Neil van Heerden, to Lesotho on Monday.

□ Sweden, one of the largest aid donors to Lesotho, said it would reduce aid if the new government aligns itself too closely with SA.

□ The Organisation of African Unity said it was following events in Lesotho with deep concern and said it feared that the

new Lesotho government may be pressured by SA into expelling refugees.

□ SA's stranglehold on Lesotho's border continued to loosen, with another goods train allowed through the blockade and border traffic reported to be moving slightly faster.

□ Foreign Minister Botha said there had never been a blockade of Lesotho and denied the borders had been closed.

□ Coup leader General Justin Lekhanya was not in when *Business Day* was permitted, under military escort, to visit his office at the para-military force barracks south of the capital yesterday.

Lesotho team in City

Formal pact

is expected

CAPE TOWN 22/1/86 167

Own Correspondent

MASERU. — A secret meeting between a Lesotho delegation and the South African Government took place in Cape Town yesterday as pressure for the expulsion of African National Congress activists from Lesotho mounted

Lesotho is expected to sign a formal non aggression pact with South Africa following the meeting in Cape Town yesterday between representatives of the new pro South Africa military government and the Foreign Minister, Mr

Pik Botha Anthony Johnson reports that the meeting took place under a shroud of secrecy at the Castle and was confirmed only when a terse statement was released last night. The delegation sent to

the City by Lesotho's new military leader, General Justin Lekhanya, was headed by the former Minister of Planning and Economic Affairs, Mr Evaristus Sekhonyana. The statement said Mr Sekhonyana explained the situation in Lesotho following the coup.

It noted that a "wide ranging exchange of views had taken place that "would hopefully lead to the lessening of tensions" between the two countries. It also said both Mr Botha and Mr Sekhonyana emphasized the need to work actively for the promotion of good-neighbourliness.

The most immediate "tension" is the three-week border blockade which Pretoria used to bring the Jonathan regime to its knees.

ANC

The easing of the blockade immediately after the coup has fuelled the suspicions of diplomats and the Organization of African Unity that the coup was instigated by Pretoria.

However, it is expected that border restrictions will not be lifted completely until Pretoria concludes a formal non aggression pact with Lesotho and extracts guarantees that the ANC presence in Lesotho has been ended.

Meanwhile the opposition Basotho Congress Party, whose military wing is the Lesotho Liberation Army, yesterday called for the expulsion of ANC guerillas from Lesotho and the restoration of diplomatic relations and "mutual security" with South Africa.

Reports from Maseru say there are about 11 000 South African refugees in Lesotho, but only a small number are considered ANC activists.

The bottom line in negotiations between South Africa and Lesotho about the lifting of the border blockade is the handing over to South Africa of ANC activists and other refugees sought by the South African Government.

ANC sources said yesterday they were extremely worried about the situation in Maseru. They confirmed that high-profile ANC members in Maseru were air lifted out of the country before Monday's coup.

Those left behind are reported to be increasingly nervous of their status in Maseru.

Unconfirmed reports

yesterday said some ANC activists had already been detained there.

In other developments yesterday

● The Soviet Ambassador to Lesotho, Mr Vladimir Garuskin twice held talks with the Cuban Foreign Minister, Mr Isidoro Malmierca, in a Lesotho hotel yesterday. Both men refused to comment on the exchanges. The Soviet Ambassador also visited General Lekhanya.

● A SADF spokesman confirmed that members of the security forces had accompanied a South African delegation to Lesotho on Monday.

● Sweden, one of the largest aid donors to Lesotho, said it would reduce aid if the new government aligned itself too closely with South Africa.

● The Organization of African Unity said it was following events in Lesotho with deep concern and feared that the new Lesotho government might be pressured by South Africa into expelling refugees.

● South Africa's stranglehold on Lesotho's border continued to loosen, with another goods train allowed through the blockade. A third train was still being searched at the border late yesterday. A long queue of traffic waited at the Maseru Bridge border post as vehicles passed through at the rate of about one an hour.

● Mr Pik Botha said there had never been a blockade of Lesotho and denied the borders had been closed.

● Leabua Jonathan Airport was reopened to traffic yesterday but a spokesman for Lesotho Airways said the International Airport to the east of town would remain closed until further notice.

● The dusk-to dawn curfew imposed in Maseru and other major centres on Monday was last night shortened to between 8pm and 5am.

22 chiefs

Phillip van Niekerk reports from Maseru that the capital returned to normal yesterday but there was still no indication of the composition of the ruling military council or its plans.

A delegation of the country's 22 principal chiefs conferred with King Moshoeshoe II and General Lekhanya at the palace yesterday.

The meeting was reportedly a prelude to a mass gathering called at Thaba Bosu on Sunday which will be addressed by both the king and Gen Lekhanya.

However, it was unclear yesterday whether the mass gathering would in fact take place.

Miners kill, mutilate 2 policemen

CAPE TOWN 22/1/86

PRETORIA — Two white policemen were killed yesterday afternoon when they were attacked by a crowd of about 500 black miners near Westonaria, a spokesman for the SAP said in Pretoria last night. A police spokesman said the bodies of two unidentified black men were also found at the scene by police reinforcements.

The policemen were attacked with "sharp objects and knobkerries" when they went to investigate reports of an illegal meeting in the area.

The incident occurred between the number two mine compound and the black township of Bekkersdal, the spokesman said.

The policemen were both members of the Krugersdorp riot unit.

When a reinforcement patrol reached the scene, members of the crowd fired at the police with service pistols taken from the dead policemen and shotguns stolen from their vehicle.

"Police returned the fire and the crowd fled into Bekkersdal township," the spokesman said.

Riot control vehicle

The mutilated bodies of the policemen as well as the bodies of two unidentified black men were found near the riot control vehicle which was also extensively damaged.

A follow up operation is being undertaken by the police. The names of the dead policemen have not yet been released as their next-of-kin have not yet been informed.

A spokesman for the Western Areas Gold Mining Company, Mr J J Nel said there had been "no trouble" at the mine before the violence.

Mr Nel said he understood there had been a meeting of residents in Bekkersdal which had been attended by some miners.

Asked if there had been any rumours or other action at the mine, he said "Absolutely not. We have had no trouble at all."

— Sapa



ORIENTAL RUGS
 ● CLEANED
 ● RESTORED
 ● VALUED

BUSINESS BRIEF

Gold (close)	\$353.75
Rand	\$0 4375/85
FT index (close)	1108.70
BD 100	1192.00
Dow Jones	1514.45

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CAPE Times 22/1/82

SA lifts Lesotho blockade

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MASERU — South Africa lifted its border squeeze on Saturday after a non-aggression agreement with the new Lesotho Government and the evacuation of 60 members of the African National Congress

The normalization of the Lesotho border was followed by a stern warning by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Pik Botha, to the Botswana Government that it would face South African "action" if it did not stop the ANC from using its country as a base

Mr Botha said he accepted Botswana did not actually assist ANC guerillas, but Gaborone was aware that the ANC was using Botswana

"That infiltration route will have to be closed — or the Defence Force will take appropriate action"

Refugees on Air Zimbabwe plane

The non-aggression deal with Lesotho was struck in talks last week between Mr Botha and a delegation led by the new Lesotho leader, Major-General Justin Lekhanya

South Africa has said the border control which led to a critical fuel shortage in Lesotho was imposed to stop entry of ANC members

The 60 ANC refugees, including several white people, women and children, flew out of Maseru on Saturday on an Air Zimbabwe aircraft bound for Zambia

South Africa has set the removal of the ANC from Lesotho territory as a prerequisite for normalization of the border situation

The refugees, one walking with crutches, were received by representatives of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Lusaka

Traffic was flowing smoothly at the Ficksburg border post into Lesotho and outside Maseru at the weekend

● Meanwhile, the Zimbabwean Foreign Minister, Mr Witness Mangwende, speaking at a dinner on Saturday held for the Cuban Foreign Minister, Mr Isidoro Malmierca, said the Lesotho coup might mark the first phase of a new and more overt South African policy of destabilizing neighbouring states which "speak out in the name of freedom and justice"

Healey

Our London correspondent reports that Mr Denis Healey, Labour's spokesman on Foreign Affairs, says that developments in Lesotho should prompt Britain to fall into line with Commonwealth countries by supporting sanctions against South Africa

He said "There is no doubt whatever that this is an example of the use of sanctions by South Africa to overthrow the sovereign government."

Mr Healey said the case of Lesotho showed that sanctions did work. They should now be employed against South Africa. — Sapa-Reuter-AP and Own Correspondent

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SL

Jonathan's fall shows sanctions can work'

The Star Bureau

LONDON — The fall of Chief Jonathan of Lesotho has proved to everybody's satisfaction that sanctions CAN work

This is the message of *The Times's* second leading article today. But it admits that the point should not be pressed too far

"A blockade on Lesotho imposed by the country which surrounds it is a very different proposition from the boycott of South Africa itself by a divided and capricious world"

Nor was it yet clear whether Pretoria had actually contrived to bring about Chief Jonathan's collapse.

"The effect of the coup upon the ANC and its operations remains to be seen," *The Times* adds "The reaction of Pretoria suggests that the new regime in Lesotho will be less sympathetic to the black insurgents, although how actively it will discourage them from crossing the border is another imponderable.

HAVEN

"Lesotho is such a natural haven for those seeking sanctuary that it may be difficult to keep them out."

But life for the ANC is likely to be more difficult, the article says.

The Times ascribes the ANC's recent concentration on "soft" targets for the present situation and says. "If the ANC's campaign has the effect of uniting whites behind the Government — and even inducing them to call for tough policies — it is likely to be self-defeating as well as, abhorrent."

The Government's obstinacy only limits the options of those who are bitterly opposed to the system, it warns.

Lesotho, it concludes, might be considered a small victory for South Africa and a reverse for its enemies, but it is not one that gives any real cause for celebration in Pretoria.

Lesotho's new rulers begin to shape a political future

By Gerald L'Ange,
The Star's Africa News Service

MASERU — Lesotho's political future is being shaped in intensive behind-the-scenes consultations, believed to include diplomatic exchanges with several other countries, including South Africa

While the military rulers flew a delegation to Cape Town yesterday to continue talks with South Africa, the Soviet ambassador, Mr G Gavryushin, had two long meetings with the visiting Cuban Foreign Minister, Mr Isadora Malmierca

Observers in Maseru consider it unlikely that the Eastern bloc countries have refrained from trying to influence the new military regime's decisions on its future policies

The military group's immediate plans for the country are expected to be disclosed within the next few days, beginning with the announcement of the composition of the military council that will control the government

The decisions of the new regime, headed by Major-General Justin Lekhanye, will affect all of Southern Africa — and they will be crucial to South Africa.

That this is recognised by the military rulers is indicated by their continuing talks with the South African Government. Yesterday's talks in Cape Town followed a reported meeting in Maseru on Monday with a delegation from Pretoria

In a message broadcast by Radio Lesotho yesterday, General Lekhanye appealed to civil servants to continue carrying out their duties with

devotion as the country got on the path to national reconciliation"

In the message the general was formally identified for the first time as chairman of the as-yet unnamed military council

Political experts consider it unlikely that only military men will be appointed to the council. Speculation that the soldiers will be forced to include some civilians, possibly even members of Chief Jonathan's Cabinet, was reinforced by two developments

One was General Lekhanye's reference to "national reconciliation". The other was the appointment of Mr Evaristus Sekonyana, former Minister of Planning and Economic Affairs, to head the delegation to yesterday's talks in Cape Town.

DEMAND FOR ACTION

South Africa's main demand on the new government is that it do more than the Jonathan regime to prevent the African National Congress from operating from Lesotho. There is no evidence that the Lekhanye government has yet taken any specific action against the ANC, let alone decided on its policy

South Africa yesterday maintained the border curbs it imposed before the coup in an apparent bid to make Lesotho crack down on the ANC

There was no sign of any opposition by the well-armed Youth League of Chief Jonathan's Basotho National Party to the military's call on them to surrender their weapons

Coup still shrouded in confusion, doubt and unanswered questions

The Star's Africa
News Service

MASERU — Apart from the fact that the army seems firmly in control, nothing is certain about the coup in Lesotho

It is still shrouded in confusion, doubt and unanswered questions. There is uncertainty about why the coup was staged, who was involved and how it was done

All this may be academic now that Chief Leabua Jonathan and his government appear to have been decisively deposed by the Lesotho Paramilitary Force (LPF) commanded by Major-General Justin Lekhanye. But there is nothing academic about the other questions awaiting answers

They include vital questions about what form of govern-

ment is to be imposed and what policies will be adopted — especially in its relations with South Africa, the ANC and the Soviet Bloc states

Answers to the foreign relations questions may come soon from the negotiations being conducted between General Lekhanye's government and Pretoria

CIVILIAN RULE

It may be a while, however, before answers come to domestic questions of burning interest to Basotho, such as whether the soldiers will retain power indefinitely or return the country to civilian rule

This question is related to one of the main reasons for the coup — the threat posed to the LPF by the armed youth wing of Chief Jonathan's Basotho

National Party

A related question is what the soldiers will do about the Lesotho National Liberation Army, the armed wing of Mr Ntsu Mokhehle's exiled faction of the opposition Basutoland Congress Party

The exiled Mr Mokhehle is likely to demand a new general election in Lesotho. So too might the internal opposition parties that boycotted the general election held last year on the grounds it was rigged

There are other questions that will need answers, such as what role the military government envisages for King Moshoeshoe II and what constitution the new government will recognise

At present it is doubtful that anyone has the answers to all or even most of these questions

Crucial talks after coup

A TOP-LEVEL delegation of the new Lesotho regime met South African Government members for talks in Cape Town yesterday. (67)

Although the Department of Foreign Affairs has declined to either deny or confirm reports of the talks, it is understood from sources in Cape Town that the Minister, Mr Pik Botha, and officials of his department held a brief

By SA Press Association

round of talks with the Lesotho delegation after lunch

SOWETAN
The Deputy Director, General of Foreign Affairs, Mr Neil van Heerden, who met the new Lesotho Government leaders in Lesotho on Monday, was also in Cape Town to attend yesterday's talks, diplomatic sources said

It is not clear whether the defence department

was represented at yesterday's talks 20/1/86

Both Mr van Heerden and a Defence Force delegation were involved in Monday's "follow-up" meeting to last Friday's talks at the Union Buildings in Pretoria on the eve of the coup that toppled Chief Leabua Jonathan

Meanwhile traffic continued to inch across the Lesotho border with

South Africa yesterday in the wake of the coup

At the Ficksburg post yesterday morning about 20 vehicles — including a petrol tanker that had been there the night before, were waiting to cross

Several other vehicles had also spent the night at the Ficksburg post

At the Caledonspoort post near Butha Buthe, a Sapa reporter saw three vehicles cross in about seven hours

NICO Vermeulen Dinner at
Chez Michel
arms.

functions (Tick which is...)
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Lesotho annexed by SA editorial

NEW YORK — The military coup in Lesotho was "an annexation carried out by native proxies" of South Africa and was likely to lead the country to "total servility" to Pretoria, the *New York Times* said in an editorial yesterday

Saying that SA cultivated the military officers who carried out the coup, the editorial said the "an-

nexation" recalled "that old, ugly German-Austrian word *Anschluss*".

It said that toppled leader Chief Leabua Jonathan "has long courted trouble by refusing to genuflect to Pretoria" and "ignored geopolitical logic in defying his big white neighbours".

Lesotho refused to recognise as

independent the tribal homelands created by Pretoria and "compounded this offence by sheltering exiled leaders of the outlawed African National Congress," it said.

After the coup, "Lesotho is even less likely to enjoy freedom, and more likely to dwindle into total servility to Pretoria," the newspaper said — Sapa-Reuter

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Limited	Management	R2		

Soldiers arrest Sixishe

MASERU — A former Lesotho Cabinet Minister and supporter of the militant youth wing of the Basotho National Party has been arrested, according to reliable sources in Maseru.

The former Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Mr Desmond Sixishe, was arrested by the Lesotho army which has been keeping a close watch on the movement of former Cabinet members.

He has been placed under house arrest and a strong unit of troops stood guard at his house in Maseru yesterday.

Most of the other Ministers in Chief Leabua Jonathan's Cabinet have not been seen in Maseru since the coup on Monday.

It is also understood that Chief Jonathan has been placed under house arrest at his residence at Ha Rakolo in the Leribe district about 50 km from Maseru. —

Sapa

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Soldiers keep ultimate power

By Gerald L'Ange,
The Star's Africa News Service

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STAR

23/1/86

MASERU — Lesotho's military leaders have given themselves a watchdog role in the new political order they imposed with their coup last weekend

They have given the job of running the government to the King, the civil service and possibly a few selected politicians who will be expected to eschew party politics

But the soldiers have retained ultimate power and have put themselves in a position to dictate policy and practice to the civilian administrators

They have reserved the right to intervene if they do not approve of any government decisions and to take back all power if they want to

The foundations of the new order in Lesotho were laid in a proclamation published in the *Government Gazette* yesterday that vests both legislative and executive authority in King Moshoeshoe II

The King's decisions will be subject to the approval of a military council set up in the same proclamation. The historic order, the first by the military leaders

since they ousted Prime Minister Leabua Jonathan, also sets up a council of ministers

The ministers, who will run the various government departments, will be appointed by the King

The members of the military council, who will hold ultimate power in Lesotho, are defined as "such officers as are for the time being in charge of the Lesotho Paramilitary Force"

No limit is set on the size of either the Military Council or Council of Ministers

SUSPENDED

The order repeals the Parliament Act of 1983 which Chief Jonathan's Parliament passed to supersede the constitution adopted at independence in 1966 but suspended by him when he seized power four years later

Since the order does not reinstate the original constitution, the order itself in effect becomes Lesotho's constitution

Published "by the authority of the chairman of the Military Council," the order is issued in the name of King Moshoeshoe II

It has only nine operative paragraphs. But its simplicity conceals a sophisti-

cation that indicates that more than military minds were behind it

On the face of it, the order sets up the King as a figurehead for the military leaders

But it does more than that. By giving both legislative and executive powers to the King, the soldiers have acknowledged their own limitations in this field

At the same time the appointment of the supposedly impartial King has put the new government above party politics and opened the way for reconciliation of the country's damaging political feuds.

The military leaders have declined to follow the example of other coups in Africa of trying to run the government themselves

But they have specified rights of intervention extending even to scrapping the order itself — including the powers given to the King

Since their guns give them this power anyway, these paragraphs stand as a warning to the civilian administrators as much as anything else

All existing laws are validated by the order but the King is empowered to repeal or change any of them and to make new ones

Refugees' future in the balance

167
SOWETAN
03/1/86

EXILED political organisations and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Lesotho are concerned about the future of political refugees in the country after Sunday night's coup.

The African National Congress and the Pan Africanist Congress yesterday said they had refugees in Lesotho and were watching the situation

The concern for political refugees comes after the South African Government asked Lesotho to hand over such people to it

Reports say there are about 11 000 refugees in Lesotho. No figures could be

given for the two banned parties

An ANC spokesman in Lusaka yesterday said they could not comment yet as the Lesotho Government's position was not clear. He said the ANC would have to study Lesotho's reaction to Pretoria's call

Wary

The PAC in Botswana said it had no information about the hand over call and whether it affected their members

By SELLO RABOTHATA

A representative of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Mr K Doherty, said "We have not been in touch with the new government and the condition as we see it will remain as it was before the take-over. We do not think their position would be affected"

Meanwhile the South African Government is reported to be wary of being seen to rush in to welcome the new regime openly

The Foreign Minister Mr Pik Botha declined to deal with the question of South Africa's formal recognition of the new government

Meanwhile executive and legislative powers have been given to King Moshoeshoe II by the military leaders who ousted former prime minister Leabua Jonathan in last week's coup in Lesotho the SOWETAN Africa News Service reports

In an announcement broadcast by the State Radio on Tuesday the Lesotho Military Council (LMC) said the king would act on its advice in exercising these powers

The announcement made it clear that the LMC reserved the right to cancel the executive order at any time, thereon withdrawing the powers given to the king

He could, however, exercise them directly or through officers of the government

The vesting of powers in the king was promulgated in the first executive order issued by the LMC

Chief Jonathan held

MASERU — Deposed Lesotho Prime Minister Leabua Jonathan is under house arrest at his mountain retreat 60km north of Maseru, *Business Day* established yesterday.

And last night Sapa reported that former Cabinet minister Desmond Sixishe, a supporter of the militant youth wing of the Basotho National Party, had been house-arrested.

A strong unit of troops stood guard at the house of the former Minister of Information and Broadcasting yesterday.

Military guards refused entry to the Prime Ministerial residence at the village of Rakolo, in the Kolonyama district, where Jonathan has been since he was overthrown in a coup early on Monday.

A bodyguard of one of the former ministers said all but one of the former Cabinet were being kept incommunicado, under military guard, at their homes.

PETER HONEY

The missing minister is said to be former Works Minister Matolwane. His whereabouts are not known.

Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmerca and his delegation were still at their Lesotho hotel yesterday morning, and it was not clear when they would be leaving.

The new military council led by Paramilitary Force commander Major-General Justin Lekhonya announced on the official radio yesterday that it did not intend taking action against people for wrongs committed in the past.

Journalists were again refused access yesterday to Lekhonya, who continues to work out of his command office at the paramilitary headquarters south of the capital.

● See Pages 3, 11

Lesotho may kick out Reds

167 Mercury 23/1/8.

MASERU—Speculation was rife here yesterday that the embassies of the Soviet Union, North Korea and other Eastern bloc countries would be closed soon as the new Military Council prepared to hand over greater powers to King Moshoeshoe II.

As border controls continued it was clear that relations with South Africa were far from normalised, although exile sources said there were now no more significant ANC members inside Lesotho.

They believed that South Africa might be seeking a much bigger concession from the new regime than the elimination of the ANC presence, possibly including a security accord or the expulsion of Eastern bloc representatives.

Meanwhile, Sapa reported that former Lesotho Cabinet minister Desmond Sixishe, a strong supporter of the militant youth wing of the Basotho National Party, had been placed under house arrest, according to reliable sources in the capital.

The former Minister of Information and Broadcasting, who last week expelled an SABC television team, was held in a swoop by the Lesotho Patriotic Front, which has been keeping a close watch on the movement of former ministers.

Released

Troops guarded his house in the capital while news of other former ministers was sparse amid unconfirmed reports that deposed Prime Minister Chief Leabua Jonathan had also been placed under house arrest at his residence at Ha Rakolo in the Leribe district about 50 km from here.

The air service between Maseru and Johannesburg, which had been suspended by the Military Council on Monday, was resumed yesterday.

Mercury Correspondent

and the flight which left at noon was fully booked.

Large quantities of essential commodities were released from the railway station after services from South Africa had been resumed three days ago.

The Military Council, which has ruled Lesotho since Monday, yesterday handed executive and legislative powers to King Moshoeshoe, although it made it clear that the LPF would retain important controls.

The move gives the 48-year-old monarch real power for the first time since ascending to the throne 25 years ago.

An extraordinary Government Gazette yesterday said legislative and executive authority would be vested in the king.

Popular

However, in the exercise of these functions, the king would have to act in accordance with the advice of the Military Council.

Since 1960, the king had been a figurehead with little more power than Queen Elizabeth II.

Speculation that the Military Council under Maj-Gen Justin Lekhanya would simply use King Moshoeshoe as a rubber stamp has been largely discounted.

Gen Lekhanya, who has yet to make a public appearance since the coup, is believed to be politically unambitious and the king is a highly popular figure whose support cuts across factions.

The gazette provides for the establishment of the Military Council made up of officers in charge of the LPF.

no quarrel with the present Government'

A spokesman for another opposition party, the United Democratic Party, Mr Moholu Elephuma, said a return to civilian democracy should not take longer than two years.

The king's position was well recognised by the people and he was a 'force that can unify us'.

Deposed

The British Government revealed that it had dropped consideration of a request for material aid from Lesotho, because of border controls, made by deposed Chief Jonathan.

A spokesman at the British Embassy in Cape Town yesterday said the request fell away because Chief Jonathan had been deposed while the British Government was still in the process of considering the request.

However, he hoped the border dispute would sort itself out quickly now that a new regime has taken over the government of Lesotho.

It also provides for the establishment of a council of ministers appointed by the king to assist in administering the country.

The king is the great-great-grandson of the founder of the Basoto nation, Moshesh.

Restrained

He is a trained lawyer and received degrees in political science and economics from Oxford.

Since 1970, when Chief Jonathan suspended the constitution as he appeared to be losing the general election, the king's powers have been specially restrained.

In that year he was exiled for three months to Holland and on his return was made to understand by Chief Jonathan that he could play no active role in politics.

Like Gen Lekhanya, King Moshoeshoe is a devout Catholic and both men are believed to be fiercely anti-communist.

Mr Steven Matlamelle, a spokesman for the Basotho Congress Party, the leading opposition to Chief Jonathan's BNP, welcomed the move as the king was a 'figure of national reconciliation'.

However, he urged an eventual return to democracy as 'that is the spirit of the country'.

Mr Matlamelle said Mr Ntsu Mokhehle, exiled leader of the BCP and a potential contender for power, would return to Lesotho soon as he has

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Powers vested in King of Lesotho

CAPL Times 23/1/86

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MASERU. — The new leader of Lesotho, General Justin Lekhanya, whose paramilitary forces on Monday toppled the government of Chief Leabua Jonathan, yesterday handed executive and legislative powers to King Moshoeshoe II.

The Lesotho Paramilitary Force (LPF) is to retain important controls concerning affairs of state, but the 48-year-old monarch is to gain real power for the first time since ascending to the throne 25 years ago.

An Extraordinary Government Gazette published yesterday said legislative and executive authority would be vested in the king.

But he would also have to "act in accordance with the advice of the military council", which, led by General Lekhanya and the LPF, has been heading the country since the coup.

Since 1960, the king has been a figurehead, and speculation that the military council would simply continue to use King Moshoeshoe as a rubber stamp has been largely discounted.

General Lekhanya is not believed to be politically ambitious and the king is a highly popular figure whose support cuts across factions.

The gazette provides

for the establishment of a council of ministers appointed by the king, an Oxford-trained lawyer, to assist in administering the country.

Since 1970, when Chief Jonathan suspended the constitution while losing the general election, the king's powers have been especially restrained, but it is believed that he will now be running Lesotho with General Lekhanya.

Like General Lekhanya, King Moshoeshoe is a devout Roman Catholic and both men are believed to be fiercely anti-communist.

The next move of the king and the military council is expected to be the announcement of the government's foreign policy.

Speculation is rife in Maseru that the embassies of the Soviet Union, North Korea and other Eastern Bloc countries will be closed down.

Mr Steven Matlamelle, a spokesman for the Basotho Congress Party (BCP), the leading opposition to Chief Jona-

than's Basotho National Party, has welcomed the new powers of the king, "a figure of national reconciliation".

He urged an eventual return to democracy as "that is the spirit of the country".

Mr Matlamelle said Mr Ntsu Mokhehle, the exiled leader of the BCP and a potential contender for power, would return to Lesotho soon as he "has no quarrel with the present government".

A spokesman for another opposition party, the United Democratic Party, Mr Moholu Elephuma, said a return to civilian democracy should not take longer than two years.

He said the king's position was well recognized by the people and he was a "force that can unify us".

South African exile sources said in Maseru yesterday that South Africa wanted more than a change in government.

They said that as there were no more important African National Congress members inside Lesotho, South Africa wanted a much bigger concession from Lesotho than simply the elimination of the ANC presence.

This could include a security accord or the expulsion of Eastern Bloc representatives from the country.

Man cast 'love' spell on wife

MWINGI, Kenya — A man who bewitched his former wife — "making it impossible for her to make love with other men" — was ordered by a court here in eastern Kenya yesterday to undo the spell.

He was also instructed to provide a goat to be used in a ritual cleansing of the victim, the official Kenya News Agency reported — Sapa-Reuter

... and both men believed to be anti-communist next move of the and the military is expected to be announcement of the government's foreign

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They said that as there were no more important African National Congress members inside Lesotho, South Africa wanted a much bigger concession from Lesotho than simply the elimination of the ANC presence.

This could include a security accord or the expulsion of Eastern Bloc representatives from the country

In other developments yesterday

● The former minister of information and broadcasting, Mr Desmond Sixishe, was arrested by the Lesotho army, which has been keeping a close watch on former cabinet members, according to reliable sources in Maseru

House arrest

It is also understood that Chief Jonathan has been placed under house arrest at his residence at Ha Rakolo in the Leribe district about 50km from Maseru.

● Lesotho refugees living in Botswana said there would be no radical change in government in Lesotho as General Lekhanya had been "moulded by Chief Jonathan"

One refugee, Mr William Lephuting, said General Lekhanya had "perpetrated evil deeds and oppression under the instructions of the deposed prime minister"

● Large quantities of essential commodities arrived in Maseru by rail after rail services from South Africa were resumed two days ago, but the border has not been opened unconditionally

● The leader of the Conservative Party, Dr Andries Treurnicht, said the CP welcomed reports that communist elements in Lesotho had been declared unwelcome and that subversive organizations opposing South Africa would be banned

— Own Correspondent, Staff Reporter, Sapa and UPI

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King Moshoeshe II

**From GERALD L'ANGE
Argus Africa News Service
MASERU.** — Lesotho's military leaders have given themselves a watchdog role in the new political order they imposed after their coup last weekend.

They have given the task of running the government to the king, the civil service and a few selected ministers who will be expected to eschew party politics.

But the soldiers have retained ultimate power and are in a position to dictate policy and practice.

The foundations of the new order were laid in a proclamation published in the Government Gazette today that vests both legislative and executive authority in the king.

But the king's decisions will be subject to the approval of a

military council set up in the same proclamation. The historic order, the first by the military leaders since they ousted the Prime Minister, Chief Leabua Jonathan, also sets up a Council of Ministers.

The ministers, who will run departments, will be appointed by the king.

Ultimate power

The members of the military council, who will hold ultimate power in Lesotho, are defined as "such officers as are for the time being in charge of the Lesotho Paramilitary Force".

The order repeals the Parliament Act of 1983 which Chief Jonathan's Parliament passed to supersede the constitution adopted at independence in 1966 but suspended by him when he seized power.

Published "by the authority of the chairman of the military

council", it is issued in the name of King Moshoeshe II.

On the face of it, the order sets up the king as a figurehead for the military leaders.

But it does more than that. By giving both legislative and executive powers to the king the soldiers have acknowledged their own limitations.

The document, however, gives the new dispensation a temporary nature. The preamble says it is aimed at providing for "peace, order and good government until such time as a new constitution better suited to the needs of the Basotho nation shall have been agreed".

All existing laws are validated by the order but the king is empowered to repeal or change any of them and to pass new ones. The order is retroactive to Monday.

'Watchdogs' give power to Basotho king

ARGUS 23/1/86
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● JONATHAN

Coup mystery clears as Lesotho dust settles

BUS DAY
167
23/1/88

PETER HONEY

MASERU — As the dust begins to settle in Lesotho a clearer picture is emerging of what happened in the tiny kingdom in the past few weeks.

The public euphoria, which spilled into Maseru's streets on Monday, the final day of what now appears to have been a five-day military takeover, prompts one to wonder at how deposed Prime Minister Leabua Jonathan managed to retain power for more than 20 years.

Basothos say his government was corrupt and that he had steadily lost support since seizing power in 1970, when it seemed his party was bound to lose against the Basotholand Congress Party of Ntsu Mokhehle

Whether or not Pretoria tipped the wink to paramilitary force commander Major-General Justin Lekhonya, during his extensive talks with

top SA security chiefs last Friday, will probably never be known

The coup certainly pleased SA

Yesterday, barely 24 hours after the coup, an envoy of the new Military Council was in Cape Town to discuss SA's lifting of the three-week-old border restrictions.

There is already talk of a big conference of chiefs at the weekend when King Moshoeshoe and Military Council chairman Lekhonya will address the nation on a new constitutional direction that might even bring an end to the three-year sojourn of East bloc missions in Maseru.

One thing seems certain: Lekhonya's hand will not rest on the tiller for

long. He does not appear to thirst for power. By most accounts this "conservative product of British military training" was an almost reluctant kingmaker.

It was Lekhonya who led a contingent of soldiers which surrounded Jonathan's offices last Wednesday to demand the disbandment of the ruling Basotho National Party's militant youth league, and a more pragmatic approach towards SA.

This action effectively wrested power from Jonathan, as he had little option but to accede to the military demands.

Why Lekhonya chose to travel with the Lesotho delegation to Pretoria to discuss the border dispute that Friday remains a mystery.

Perhaps he still hoped Jonathan would toe the line.

ANC TOLD: GET OUT

LEADER of coup
General Lekhanya

AFRICAN National Congress refugees have been given until today to get out of Lesotho, sources in that country have said.

People telephoning The SOWETAN last night alleged that

- The Lesotho Military Council, which toppled Chief Leabua Jonathan's Government in a coup last weekend had given the ANC an ultimatum to leave Lesotho by today

- Whites were manning roadblocks on the approaches to Maseru the capital from the National University of Lesotho in Roma,

- On Wednesday Radio Lesotho reported that a list of names of refugees that the South African Government wanted out of Lesotho had been given to the military council

Last night about 60 ANC members were believed to have left Lesotho following the ultimatum to leave by today

There has been speculation about the fate of the refugees in Lesotho since South Africa's blockade of the border earlier this month

Fears

At the time South Africa demanded that the ANC members be sent back here to stand trial

The fears of refugees — both the followers of the African National Congress and those of the Pan Africanist Congress — were worsened by the coup last Sunday

A spokesman for the ANC in Lusaka last night said they had been getting different reports from Lesotho so they could not comment. He said there were more than 700 refugees in Lesotho as people were arriving there daily because of the unrest in South Africa

- Other sources in Lesotho said the South African Government had demanded that six refugees be handed back so they could face trial here

This could not be confirmed last night



ARCHBISHOP Dennis Hurley (right), president of the South African Catholic Bishops Conference, with Archbishop George Daniel (left) Archbishop of Pretoria, and Cardinal Owen McCann of Cape Town during the opening of the SACBC conference in Pretoria this week. Archbishop Hurley told delegates, some from as far as Italy and Belgium, that 1985 was a tragic year of protests, demonstrations and violent police reaction that resulted in many deaths and injuries in the country

Morobe detained

THE ACTING national publicity secretary of the United Democratic Front, Mr Murphy Morobe, has been detained under the state of emergency regulations

Also held in Johannesburg yesterday morning was Miss Cheryl Carolis the UDF's regional organiser in the western Cape and Mr Hoffman Galeng, an official of the northern Cape

Miss Carolis is also being detained in terms of the emergency regulations

Miss Carolis was part of a UDF delegation which arrived home recently from a week long overseas trip during which they had met top officials of the African National Congress and the Swedish Government

But a police telex to Sapa confirming the detentions of Miss Carolis and Mr Morobe said present police records showed the official was not being detained under either emergency or security legislation

In a statement yesterday the UDF said the detention of Mr Morobe, Miss Carolis and Mr Galeng is a cowardly act on the part of the apartheid regime

to all that despite all the draconian laws the emergency and long scale detentions and bannings of UDF activists the State has failed to paralyse the Front. We declare that we will continue waging relentless battle against repression and exploitation

It called for the unconditional release of the three

In London anti-apartheid organisations have expressed fear for the safety of the two UDF leaders

A range of British organisations have sent telegrams to President P W Botha protesting against the detentions of Mr Morobe and Miss Carolis

There is great interest in Britain in the fate of Mr Morobe who was a member of the UDF delegation which travelled to Britain during the occupation of the Durban offices of the British consulate by six UDF men

Mr Geoffrey Bindman chairman of the UDF treason trial committee said: 'Every detainee is at risk. But these two face particular dangers and we appeal to the British Government to intervene on their behalf' — SOWETAN Foreign Service

These detentions should indicate... See Page 2

OK TAKES THE LEAD WITH LOWER PRICES!

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167 (11)
CAPE Times 24/1/86

Lesotho won't return refugees

NAIROBI — Lesotho's new military rulers said yesterday that refugees from South Africa would be flown out of the country as quickly as possible and would not be handed over to the South African authorities

The statement, from the military council which seized power on Monday, was broadcast by state-run Radio Lesotho monitored by the BBC

It was the first announcement of the new government's policy in the dispute with South Africa over the presence of anti-apartheid South Africans — regarded by Lesotho as refugees and by Pretoria as terrorists

The military council's statement said the African National Congress and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees were helping to speed up the airlift of ANC refugees.

Radio Lesotho said the council "has categorically refuted speculation that Lesotho might hand over her refugees to South Africa"

In Maseru, political sources said yesterday that the new military leaders appeared to have crushed opposition from some factions in the armed forces which were against their seizure of power.

Major-General Justin Lekhanya, leader of the coup that overthrew the civilian government of

♦♦♦♦

To page 2

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CAPE Times
24/1/86

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From page 1

167 (11)

Chief Leabua Jonathan on Monday, is firmly in charge of the country — but only after differences with some senior officers of Lesotho's 1500-man paramilitary force, the sources said

No details were available, but the sources said those opposed to the new military council seemed to have been demoted

Radio Lesotho yesterday reported that governors of three northern districts — Butha, Leribe and Berea — had welcomed the new administration, pledged their support and said they hoped it would normalize the strained relations with South Africa

The new Lesotho Government has already moved to normalize ties during talks between officials of the two countries in the past four days

Lifting of 'blockade' expected

Pretoria's crippling security crackdown on Lesotho's borders has now been relaxed and train services carrying vital petrol into Lesotho were resumed on Monday

Lesotho officials expect the "blockade" to be finally lifted after conclusion of talks

Radio Lesotho has been publicizing the new government's moves to ease tension. Political sources said it seemed to be drumming up support for greater co-operation with South Africa, which completely surrounds Lesotho

'Not under house arrest'

Chief Jonathan and his ministers were apparently still at their homes yesterday after being told by the new rulers to remain there until further notice

The government denies they are under house arrest.

Sources said the government, which said it was giving the figurehead monarch, King Moshoeshoe II, legislative and executive powers to govern Lesotho on the advice of the military council, was expected to announce its policies soon.

General Lekhanya, described by diplomats as non-communist, a Roman Catholic and widely respected within the armed forces, was likely to steer Lesotho towards good relations with Pretoria and downgrade Chief Jonathan's close ties with East Bloc nations

ANC 'deaths' discounted

Western diplomats yesterday dismissed reports that ANC members had been killed since the military takeover on Monday.

They said reports on Wednesday from Lusaka, suggesting that "hundreds" of ANC members had been killed in clashes between the army and Chief Jonathan's youth followers, were "absolute rubbish and disinformation"

According to some sources in Lusaka, there were about 700 South African refugees in Lesotho at the time of the coup — Sapa-Reuter

167 (11)

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SJA 12
24/11/86

Lesotho to fly out ANC members

The Star's Africa News Service

MASERU — About 60 political refugees from South Africa are expected to be flown out of Lesotho today at the start of a crackdown on the African National Congress (ANC) by the new military rulers.

Large numbers are expected to follow in a major airlift aimed at persuading South Africa to lift the border blockade that threatens to cripple Lesotho's economy.

Those flown out today are expected to be taken to Lusaka in an aircraft sent by the Zambian Government. The ANC's headquarters are in Lusaka.

Today's flight came immediately after an announcement by the Lesotho Military Council (LMC) last night that arrangements were being made with the United Nations High Commission for Refugees and with the ANC to speed up the repatriation of ANC refugees to other countries.

At the same time it was announced in New York that Lesotho has asked the United Nations for help in finding second countries of asylum for the refugees.

The LMC has given an assurance that, despite the crackdown on the ANC, it will refuse to return any political refugees to South Africa.

Botha hits back at Eglin

Political Correspondent

THE Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Pik Botha, has hit back at the criticism from the PFP that Pretoria increased instability in Lesotho by enforcing a "heavy-handed blockade" of the landlocked mountain kingdom

Mr Botha said in a statement that it was surprising that the PFP's spokesman on foreign affairs, Mr Colin Eglin, had displayed "such ignorance" over the causes of events in Lesotho as well as the "border control measures" instituted by South Africa three weeks ago.

Mr Botha denied that the border had been closed and maintained that no blockade had been planned or implemented against Lesotho.

"In fact, an order had been given that perishable goods, medicines and similar emergency products be allowed through as soon as possible after investigation."

'Cowardly'

The same applied to patients that needed medical treatment, he said.

Mr Botha said the South African public would like to see Mr Eglin and his party supporting the "straight-forward" security measures that protected the South African population against "cowardly" bomb attacks and landmine explosions.

LESOTHO

A coup in time?

167



There may be jubilation in the streets of Maseru following the removal from power of PM Chief Leabua Jonathan this week. No one ever liked him much. Yet that should not obscure the hard

fact that Lesotho has yet to resolve serious internal tensions — and its policy towards South African, specifically African National Congress (ANC), refugees who enter its borders has yet to be sorted out if Pretoria is to be satisfied.

The key determinant of the small and embattled country's future stability — internally as much as in its relations with Pretoria — lies in the political posture that its new man at the helm, Major General Justin Lekhanya, who heads the new Military Council, adopts.

It is clear, however, that as coups go it was a conservative one — and definitely a setback for the ANC. What precipitated it?

One interpretation of last week's skirmishes between the pro-Jonathan Youth League and the Paramilitary Force (PMF — actually the army) under Lekhanya, culminating in the coup on Sunday night, is that the "pragmatists" led by Lekhanya finally succeeded in overcoming the hardliners, linked to the PM.

Yet it is not clear whether the hardliners have been decisively neutralised or if an incipient, area-based civil war with the Youth League will simmer on.

Rarely has a country's political and economic future been so closely affected as a result of its neighbour's internal policies, as in the case of Lesotho. It will now, it seems, have to explain to Pretoria the particular problems it faces with regard to policing refugees, and then thrash out a *modus vivendi* with South African security concerns.

The indications are that Lekhanya, who was part of a seven-man Lesotho delegation that met SA's Deputy Director of Foreign Affairs Neil van Heerden in Pretoria last week, is more amenable to dealing with SA seriously and pragmatically. Indeed, such a vulnerable country would seem to have no other choice. Many ordinary Basotho appear to realise this helplessness in the face of SA's *force majeure* as expressed in the border blockade — even though they would strongly oppose handing over ANC people to the

Lesotho's new leader appears to be far more pragmatic than the ousted Chief Jonathan in his dealings with SA. But many clouds hover over the country's political progress back to democracy — not least of which is the refugee issue.

South African authorities, and favour, instead, airlifting them to "third" countries. The domestic fears of the population, of becoming completely beholden to Pretoria, should also not be underestimated. Nor is Lekhanya necessarily likely to expel Lesotho's socialist friends.

Ironically, under Jonathan, steps had already been taken to mollify SA. About 150 ANC activists were flown to Dar es Salaam and Lusaka in December, following the pre-Christmas attack into Lesotho which left dead six ANC-affiliated people and three Basotho citizens. And in the three days before the coup, three such flights were made, despite Jonathan's posturing. His reliance on

the West coming to his rescue was badly miscalculated and led to "threats" to seek aid from communist countries. In the view of a diplomatic source in Maseru, "Jonathan's whole game was to get as much international attention and connections as possible, for once apartheid goes, nobody would much look at the country."

According to the SA Institute of International

King Moshoeshoe



General Lekhanya and Foreign Affairs' Van Heerden

Affairs, it would seem to be in Lekhanya's best interests to differentiate between refugees in order to facilitate the monitoring of ANC personnel. This would entail separating ANC-designated refugees from others with different political persuasions. It is important, also, that SA allow Lesotho adequate margin for manoeuvre. This Pretoria seems likely to do, as the reported easing of border restrictions this week seems to indicate.

On Sunday morning a Maseru government spokesman said there was an "ambient" (presumably floating) population of some 9 000 refugees in the country of which, on the eve of the coup, "less than 100" were "declared ANC members." This was the situation after the December and later flights, before Jonathan was toppled.

Jonathan was the first head of an Organisation of African Unity member state to meet with a South African premier — Hendrik Verwoerd in 1966, just before his assassination. Indeed, he came to power that year backed by South African money, and ever after obdurately refused to acknowledge this state of affairs. Instead, he came to adopt a kind of high moral, pro-liberationist stance which seemed at odds with his own rather anti-democratic style within Lesotho itself.

"I have seized power, I admit it," said Jonathan after he cancelled the elections his ruling Basotholand National Party (BNP) lost to the main opposition Basotholand Congress Party (BCP) led by Ntsu Mokhele, in 1970. Indeed, Jonathan's courtship after 1976 of various socialist allies was not matched by similar socialist, let alone democratic, impulses domestically. The last mooted election, set for September 1985, did not take place because the opposition groups boycotted the entire exercise.

Whether Lekhanya will permit Mokhele's external faction of the BCP to contest power in free and fair elections remains a crucial factor in Lesotho's political stability. Some argue that the real power in the country may still lie with the BCP, and, in particular, with Mokhele's wing rather than with the internal, breakaway factions. These opposed his creation of the Lesotho Liberation Army (LLA) and what his former chief lieutenant, referring to Mokhele's paradoxical links with SA, called his decision to "ride on the back of the devil."

Nonetheless, it appears that he is still a potent symbolic figure. In the aborted 1970 poll Mokhele's party won 35 of the 60 parliamentary seats compared to Jonathan's 23.

Mokhele, once feted, with good reason, as the populist favourite of the majority of the Basotho and of organisations like the ANC, has certainly fallen out of favour with the latter, whose Secretary General, Alfred Nzo,

Continued on page 38

(167) FM 24/1/86

condemned him in 1982 as being financed by Pretoria with the aim of destabilising the Jonathan regime. Past indications, notably an admission by former Deputy Minister of Land Affairs Hennie van der Walt in 1982, are that Mokhele would be prepared to sign a pact with SA

Assuming that Lekhanya, having restored order among the armed factions, calls elections and a somewhat socialist-leaning Mokhele emerges triumphant (which is not necessarily inevitable), little is likely to change from SA's point of view. Lesotho's economic dependence on SA will remain. From its membership of the South African Customs Union comes 70% of the country's national revenue. Basotho miners employed on South African mines (40% of the country's male population and the most productive segment) earn Lesotho half its gnp (about R1 billion) in remittances from SA

Furthermore, Lesotho's joint development with SA of the Highlands Water Scheme is regarded as valuable enough to both not to jeopardise it in the event of any party — of whatever political stripe — coming to power. The scheme is set to double Lesotho's income once it is operational in 20 years' time

Lekhanya had not (as the FM went to press) spelled out the course he will follow

Yet his conservative leanings, closeness to King Moshoeshoe, and concern at the devastating prospects of a prolonged South African border squeeze, evidently propelled him to remove the intransigent Jonathan (see box)

Jonathan's political demise was precipitated by SA's choking of the country's vital supply lines. After less than a month, this form of South African pressure demonstrated Lesotho's utter dependence on SA. The effective economic blockade thus seems to have proved a more potent weapon than cross-border attacks in clamping down on the ANC. This assumes, of course, that the new authority in Lesotho and Pretoria are able to work out a way of monitoring refugees from SA, who last year entered Lesotho at a rate of 50 a month

The events leading up to last Sunday night's relatively quiet ousting of Jonathan are still far from clear. Four days after apparently trying to prevail upon Jonathan to change his stance against SA's demands to expel ANC refugees, Lekhanya acted

It seems that Lekhanya put his foot down after becoming "fed up," as one ambassador in Maseru put it, at Jonathan's lack of response to the concern he had communicated to the PM earlier this year about the increas-

ingly tense situation in the country. The Youth League of the ruling BNP, whose first loyalty was essentially to Jonathan, appear to have alienated many people by "throwing their weight around"

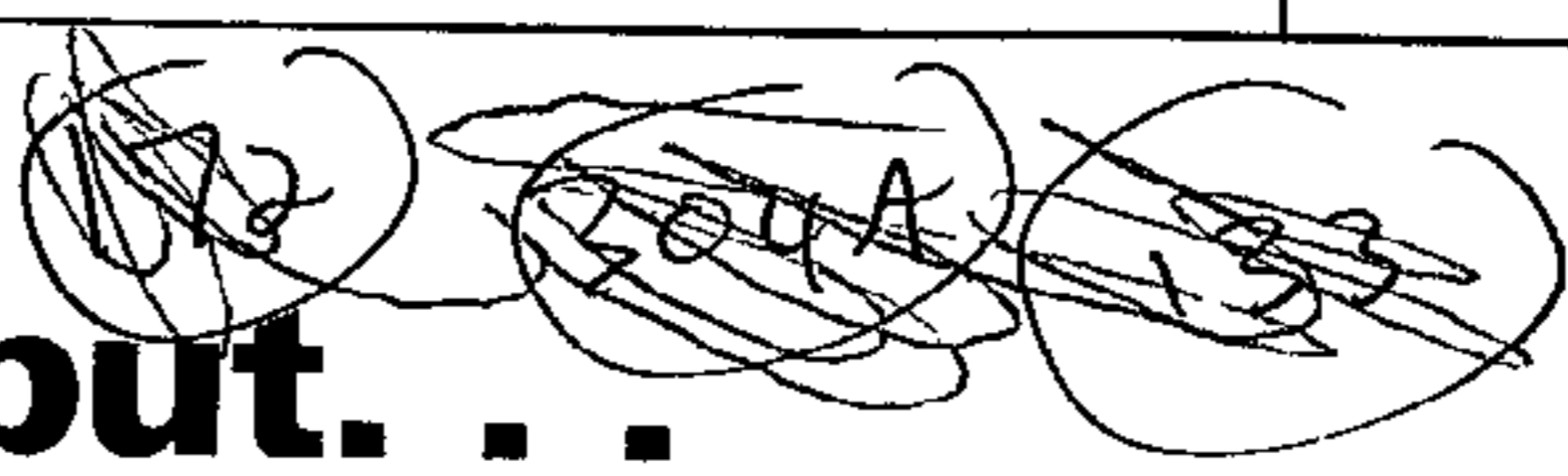
What was initially reported as a "coup" a week ago — when Lekhanya's men surrounded Jonathan's office in downtown Maseru — seems in fact to have been the general's ultimatum to Jonathan to reign in and disarm the Youth League and to deal with Pretoria. Lekhanya, according to one account, took the PM to the King and explained that his loyalty was first to Moshoeshoe, and not necessarily to Jonathan

Just what kind of role Moshoeshoe, whom Lekhanya named Head of State, will play remains to be seen. Moshoeshoe is linked to the royalist Marematlou Freedom Party, which is not regarded as a force in the land. In 1970, Marematlou won only two seats. Like Lesotho's electorate — which has the highest literacy rate in black Africa — the king has been on a enforced political holiday for 20 years, since signing a virtual declaration of abdication in 1966

At any rate, it will be interesting to see whether the king shaves his beard, which he vowed not to until such time as Lesotho was returned to constitutional government ■

THE FCI CHARTER

Visionary, but...



"Words, words, words," said Hamlet when asked what he read. For some time the business community has made its views known on reform — that negotiation with accepted black leaders must begin, influx control must go, as well as group areas and the whole shooting match

The latest initiative is the Federated Chamber of Industries' (FCI's) Charter of Social, Economic and Political Rights, and the supporting Action Programme of South African Business. Do these documents contribute towards a solution of our difficulties, are they the Magna Carta of reform? The FCI believes them to be — or just more words?

The FCI's Charter of Social, Economic and Political Rights has a magisterial ring. But it is far less convincing on detail and may err through being too ambitious in scope.

We have certainly come a long way from the heady, if puzzling, days of the Carlton and Good Hope conferences when business was asked by P W Botha (then Prime Minister) to stand by him in reform. Some, indeed, asked then what precisely does he mean? Well, as it turned out, essentially a loosening-up of the informal sector and the pass system, freehold for blacks, the eradication of the race-sex laws — and, alas, decentralisation. Everyone hopes for more

All this is trite. The real question is whether business can play the role of facilitator (as psychiatrist Carl Rogers would put it) in the current political ferment. There have certainly been significant entries into the political arena by various groups, sometimes alone, sometimes in concert

We have seen major businessmen urging swifter reform on President Botha. Some have trekked to Lusaka to meet the banned and exiled African National Congress (ANC). And — in its quiet way — perhaps one of the most important developments has

been the formation of the Private Sector Council on Urbanisation

The council comprises representatives of the Association of Chambers of Commerce (Assocom), the Afrikaanse Handelsinstituut (AHI), the FCI, the National African Federated Chamber of Commerce (Nafcoc), and the Urban Foundation (UF). In summary, its stated goals include

- A parliamentary commitment by government to remove influx control,
- An immediate end to shack demolitions, forced removals, and freezes on city growth,
- Acceleration of the acquisition and servicing of land at affordable prices,



Confrontation brings chaos



Conciliation creates wealth

flotation will enable us to step up our growth rate."

The group focuses on the middle to lower end of the socio-economic market, Pretorius (57) explains — a field he believes offers

better prospects than the top end

"Some 50% of new business comes from the black community, 30% from coloureds and Asians and only 20% from whites," Pretorius says "Black target groups include

homeland civil servants, teachers, hospital staff and urban professional people generally"

Metropolitan considers itself industry leader in the black market, he adds, and has

LEABUA JONATHAN

THE TIGHTROPE BREAKS

167
Leabua Jonathan has joined the ranks of deposed African heads of state. In recent years it seems he forgot the principle on which he came to power 19 years ago that for Lesotho, geography is destiny.

SA's stranglehold on Lesotho, designed to force him to take action against the African National Congress (ANC), precipitated his downfall. The conservative military leaders of the takeover, who favour normalisation of relations with SA and want Lesotho to dis-

consistently played all sides against the middle

He wooed the West, and more recently the East, in search of indispensable foreign aid, and as a buffer against South African power. In the years after independence in 1966, he cultivated SA's support against his major political competitors, the socialist-orientated Basotho Congress Party (BCP), then Africanist and socialist in orientation.

In granite certainty of his own rightness,

on, and intervened in, almost all government activities and departments. Not surprisingly, there was considerable turnover in his cabinet. As a political figure, he was remote and a poor public speaker.

His categorical refusal, from as early as 1969, to hand over ANC refugees to SA was surprising. South African support had ensured his victory in the pre-independence elections of 1965, and would ensure the success of his bloodless coup in 1970, when he abrogated elections which it appeared the opposition BCP had won.

Jonathan worked hard to promote Vorster's "dialogue" policy with states to the north, but found his credibility eroded — he was hissed as a stooge at the Organisation of African Unity gatherings.

By 1971, Jonathan was seriously alienated by SA's "bantustan mentality" in dealing with his government, by SA's offhand arrogance and what Jonathan saw as economic sabotage in blocking foreign investment in Lesotho.

He began to speak out strongly against apartheid — and found the international and African acceptance that followed brought useful returns in foreign aid.

It also had penalties. According to Jonathan, after 1973 General Hendrik van den Bergh's Bureau of State Security was in touch with the BCP — which was splitting into factions under the impact of repressive moves — and trained and armed its military wing, the Lesotho Liberation Army (LLA), which attempted a coup in 1974.

LLA attacks and sabotage were sporadic until about 1980, as the post-1976 ANC presence and its military activities grew. South African hostility increased. The Maseru raid by SA in 1982 saw 42 people die.

The following year, Jonathan established diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union, Eastern Bloc countries and mainland China, in the teeth of a previous declaration that he would have nothing to do with communist states.

For years he promised elections — most recently last September. But when the five opposition parties refused to nominate candidates, claiming that they had not received full voters' rolls, Jonathan seized the opportunity to declare his candidates elected unopposed.

In a real sense, Jonathan's political beginnings and his end are a result of South African power. His successors may not be as agile at political juggling as he, but they will face the same constraints.



tance itself from the ANC, are loyal to the king before Jonathan.

So King Moshoeshoe II, who has been waiting on the political periphery to which Jonathan firmly consigned him, seems about to move back to centre stage.

In a way, Jonathan's stubborn — and fatal — maintenance of cordial relations with the ANC, despite ideological incompatibilities, made sense: if Jonathan believed his own prediction that white rule in SA was doomed, it was logical to cultivate the regime of the future.

An arch-survivalist, keeping himself in power has been the name of Jonathan's 20-year political chess game — in which he

he was not unlike his old antagonist John Vorster. His style was that of an old-style disciplinarian and conservative autocrat. He ruled by decree, and publicly castigated his king a number of times, though he married into the royal family.

Jonathan's background was rural. He was a herdboyc in his time, received mission school education to Standard Seven, worked on the South African mines as a clerk, then trained and educated himself until he became a judicial assessor. He was a senior colonial civil servant under British rule before entering politics 30 years ago.

A minor chief, he was no delegator of authority, and throughout his reign kept tabs

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LEABUA'S LAST STAND

Only hours before Major General Justice Lekhanya moved in to take over the reins of power in Lesotho, Chief Leabua Jonathan was describing him as a "very loyal soldier," "my best man," and "my creation."

The ex-Prime Minister dismissed as "rubbish" the suggestion that Lekhanya was about to arrest him. He described the general as very loyal, mature, not ambitious and a good soldier, which seems to be the general estimation of the new man at the helm.

The ousted PM was speaking at a press conference which was rather suddenly and a bit surprisingly, arranged for a small group of foreign journalists, including one from the *FM*, who all naturally hoped to come away with the answer to what was going in the tiny, embattled "Kingdom in the Sky." The interview was conducted at Jonathan's home in Ha Rakolo, 65 km from Maseru, last Sunday morning. One of the variety of rumours since the previous Wednesday's confused and premature reports of an attempted coup suggested that the PM was under house arrest following the military show of force outside Jonathan's offices in Maseru the previous Wednesday.

The estate, which Jonathan emphasized "belongs to me, not the government," is situated a few metres from the Caledon River boundary with South Africa. Jonathan is a keen farmer. His neighbour just across the river in SA is a Mr Hofmeyer with whom he gets on famously, said Jonathan on a short walkabout round his vegetable garden and orchards which he said supply many restaurants with fresh produce.

In the light of his removal from power not many hours afterwards, it is surprising that Jonathan attempted to convey such a confident picture of his position. However, the doubts surfaced in the way he prefaced certain replies. "Was the government firmly in control?" he was asked, to which he replied "One can never know. But as far as I am aware I am."

He explained the previous day's events as merely to do with "an internal matter in the Paramilitary Force (PMF) that has absolutely nothing to do with politics." There were about 35 "rebels" within the unit, he said, who had been ordered to surrender their arms due to indiscipline.

"That's when the trouble started."

As to why his office had been surrounded and officials ordered to evacuate on that confused Wednesday, the now deposed PM explained that it had to do with "security," as the PMF had received information that "something was brewing." It had merely been their duty to come and investigate the matter, Jonathan said.

Asked whether King Moshoeshoe would play a more active role in politics in future, he replied: "Not according to the law." The situation was the same as in Britain, where the monarch is above the law, he explained, adding, "he doesn't speak... I don't see him meddling in Lesotho politics."

Jonathan stated that there was no opposition in the country. The five opposition figures who had been jailed two days earlier after returning from a peace initiative with Pretoria were the creation of Pretoria. "We are a peace-loving country and a homogenous society. The situation is absolutely stable." Pretoria, however, was "threatening our stability... they are trying to get me out of power."

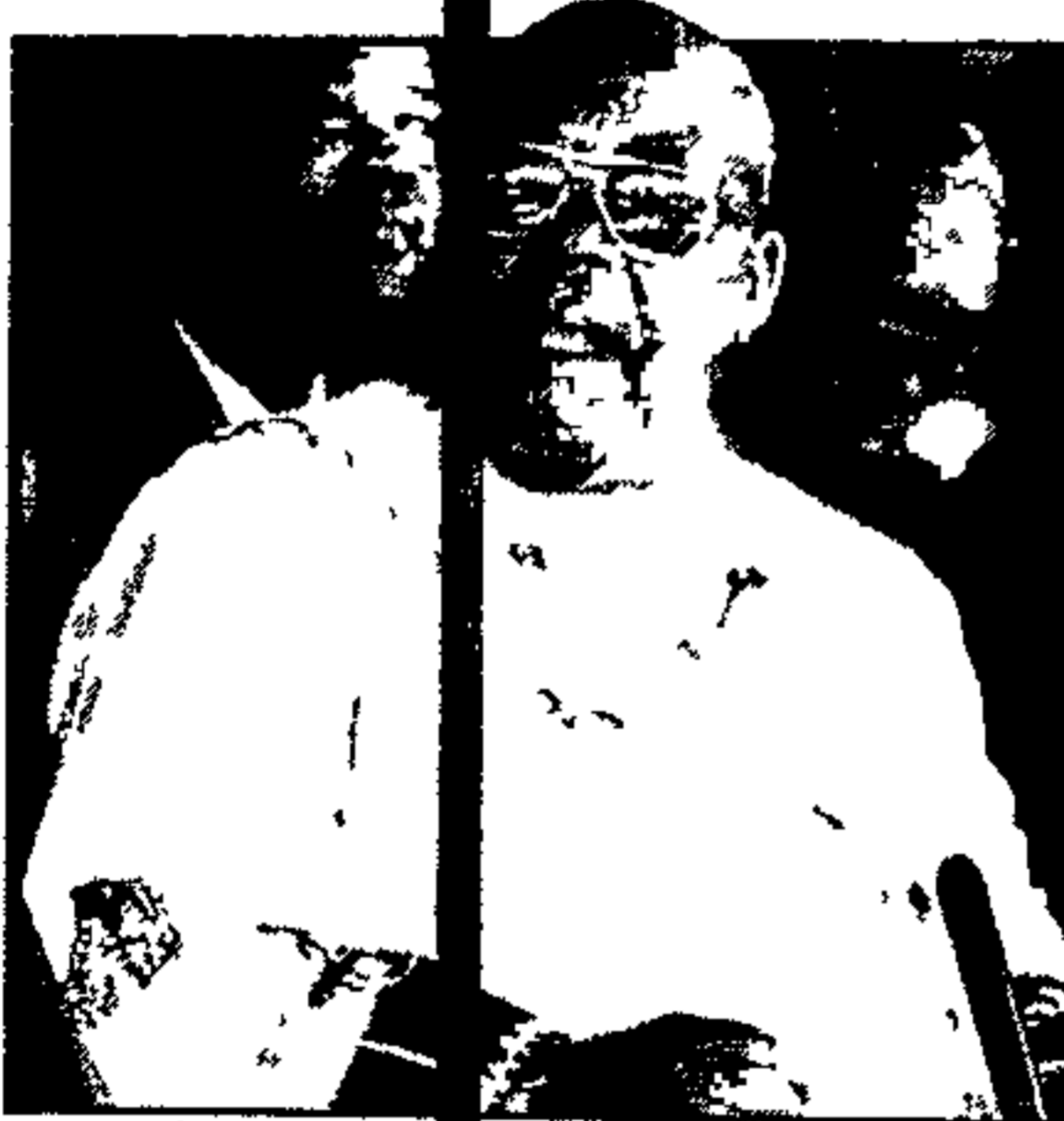
He claimed that the five leaders, among them C D Molapo, Bennet Khaketla and Charles Molefi, were conspiring with SA to

topple him. These figures, said Jonathan, did not approve of his foreign policy once he had begun to diversify his international contacts by inviting in the socialists.

Jonathan maintained that the reportedly detained rebel Colonel Sechabo who apparently led the rebels was a paid agent of SA, although some reports later held that Sechabo was in fact Lekhanya's ally.

The deposed PM unequivocally rejected any notion of handing over African National Congress (ANC) refugees to SA ("I'd rather die"); denied that there were ANC training camps in Lesotho, and reiterated his challenge to be shown evidence of them. SA Foreign Minister Pik Botha's detailed information had not been given to him, Jonathan claimed.

He spelled out his deep disappointment at receiving no reply to his urgent requests "to our traditional friends, Britain and the US" for a Berlin-style emergency airlift to counter food, fuel and medical supply shortages as a result of the South African "siege." He virtually accused Margaret Thatcher of racism ("Is it because we are black?") for not having the courtesy even to reply to his appeal.



Chief Leabua Jonathan

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ARGUS
24/1/86
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Lesotho frees detained politicians

Argus Africa News Service

MASERU — Five opposition politicians detained by Chief Leabua Jonathan's Government before he was toppled over the weekend have been released by the new military Government headed by Major-General Justin Lekhanya.

They were detained on January 14 after returning from talks in Pretoria with the South African Foreign Minister Mr Pik Botha, on the border crisis.

The five are Mr Bennett Khaketla, president of the Maseru Freedom Party, Mr Gerard Ramorebole, internal leader of the Basotholand Congress Party, Mr Phoka Chaulane and Mr Seisa Nqoyane of the Basotho Democratic Alliance and Mr Charles Mofeli of the United Democratic Party.

LUSAKA

About 60 political refugees from South Africa were expected to be flown out of Lesotho today to Lusaka at the start of a crackdown on the African National Congress by the new military rulers.

Today's flight came immediately after an announcement by the Lesotho Military Council (LMC) last night that arrangements were being made with the United Nations High Commission for Refugees and with the ANC to speed up the repatriation of refugees to other countries.

Reliable sources here said South Africa gave Lesotho a list of 60 known ANC activists it wanted out of the country.

Lesotho has asked the United Nations for help in finding other countries of asylum for the refugees.

● It is reported from Harare that the Zimbabwean Foreign Minister, Mr Isadora Malmierca, trapped in Lesotho for several days by the coup, arrived in Zimbabwe today to continue his tour of Southern Africa.

Police deaths: hundreds fired

STAR 25/1/86

204 205

By Sheryl Raine
and Mike Silama

Hundreds of black miners from Randfontein Estates Gold Mine in Westonia have been dismissed — and scores more could face the same fate this weekend.

The dismissals follow a bloody clash between police and about 500 miners just outside mine property on Tuesday. Nine people, including two white policemen were killed.

Opposition to Lesotho regime 'will be crushed'

The Star's Africa
News Service

MASERU — In his first broadcast to the Basotho nation last night, the chairman of Lesotho's new Military Council, Major General Metsing Lekhanya attacked the country's politicians, warning that any opposition to the Military Council's rule would be crushed "ruthlessly".

The general said the Military Council had decided that all politics in Lesotho should cease because politics had led to the problems in which the country found itself today.

In a nationwide broadcast on Radio Lesotho the general also said Lesotho's new military rulers would work towards improved relations between Lesotho and South Africa.

The general made the broadcast only three hours after he was sworn in with the five other council members before King Moshoeshoe 2. He reviewed the political situation in Lesotho over the years and said it had been placed in a 'quagmire' by politicians whose activities were not related to the people's wishes.

Relations with her neighbours had deteriorated to an alarming degree and the economy of the country had collapsed. The army found it necessary to intervene in order to build peace and tranquility among the people of Lesotho.

Major-General Lekhanya said the council was determined to build peace and reconciliation in Lesotho and any act of subversion or criminal activity planned to defeat its aims would not be tolerated.

He said to show the Military Council's sincerity in its attempts to establish peace in Lesotho it would soon announce a general amnesty for all Basotho in and outside the country. This amnesty would enable them to become free and to enjoy rights in their own country.

The council had the right to review the treaties or agreements negotiated by the 'previous government' he said.

A spokesman for Randfontein said "a significant number" of workers had been dismissed from the mine and bused home — but he would not give an exact number.

He said "This action was taken where management had clear evidence that those dismissed were involved either in the incident which resulted in the death of two policemen on Tuesday evening, or intended to create further unrest close to or at the mine."

Mine officials are continuing investigation of the tragedy. More dismissals are possible.

The dismissals have raised a protest from the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM), which claims that hundreds of miners were forced from their hostels, assaulted and bused home.

It now seems that the violence on Tuesday came after a month of tension which included a beerhall boycott, industrial unrest, damage to property, the murder of a mine assistant personnel manager at Westonia Gold Mine, and the banning of all unauthorised mass meetings in the Randfontein mine hostels.

The two policemen died when they went to open a field outside the Randfontein Cooke No 2 Shaft hostels near the Bekkersdal township, where miners had gathered for a union meeting.

Union business

Police said the meeting was illegal. The NUM said the meeting was held to discuss legitimate union business and had been held off mine premises because workers had been harassed by mine security.

A company spokesman claimed that meetings in the hostels had been used to "incite and intimidate workers" and had been banned about a month ago.

The NUM has charged that the ban was part of a management strategy to harass the workers into abandoning a month long boycott of a mine beer hall.

NUM Press officer Mr Marcel Golding said the dismissal of hundreds of mineworkers had been accompanied by the brutal assault of workers by mine security assisted by the SAP.

Mine officials denied that their security personnel were involved in assaults and said the police were not involved in the dismissals.

Mr Golding said workers were paid off and forced on to waiting buses on Thursday and were escorted from the mine by armed guards.



Kennedy
Award for
Winnie

A beaming Mrs Winnie Mandela accepted the Kennedy Human Rights Award. The handing over of the award was made by former Republican Prime Minister P. W. Botha at a Press conference.



Out of her element you might say — but yes it is Springbok runner Sonja Laxton and, no she isn't running on land. Sonja pulled a hamstring in August last year and she has found the best way to keep in training without aggravating the injury is to don a life-jacket get in the pool and "run" in the water.

compatible with the said provisions of the first-mentioned Act

(2) No.

Reserve Bank: money advanced/debits paid

*18 **HANS: 25/2/86**
Mr S P BARNARD asked the Minister of Finance †

Whether the South African Reserve Bank recently (a) advanced money to and/or (b) paid certain debts or met obligations on behalf of banking institutions in the Republic; if so, (i) in respect of which banking institutions, (ii) what amount was involved, (iii) what was the rate of interest, (iv) to whom was the amount paid and (v) how is the amount going to be repaid to the Reserve Bank?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE

The South African Reserve Bank regularly provides financial accommodation to banking institutions by rediscounting Treasury bills, Land Bank bills, bankers' acceptances, government stock and other similar financial assets for them or by extending loans to them against the security of such assets. The Reserve Bank does this as part of its policy of controlling the money supply and in the performance of its traditional function as "lender of last resort". The amounts and interest rates involved in these transactions fluctuate daily in accordance with changes in conditions in the financial markets.

In terms of the South African Reserve Bank Act (No. 29 of 1944) the Reserve Bank is required to submit a monthly statement of assets and liabilities in a prescribed form to the Treasury for publication in the *Government Gazette*. This monthly statement is also published by the Reserve Bank itself within one week after the end of each month. The Reserve Bank's discounts, loans and investments are shown in this monthly statement. In accordance with normal banking practice and the accepted rules of confidentiality regarding banker/client relationships, no details are divulged regarding transactions between the Reserve Bank and individual

banks, which operate in normal competition with one another

Mr H H SCHWARZ. Mr Chairman, arising out of the reply of the hon the Minister of Finance, it is obvious that *comfort* letters do not appear in the statements to which he referred. Were any further *comfort* letters issued other than the one that was publicly announced?

The MINISTER Mr Chairman, if the hon member will table that question, I will provide him with the proper reply.

Lesotho: citizens working in Republic
*19 **HANS: 25/2/86**
Mr H D K VAN DER MERWE asked the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning †

(a) How many citizens of the state Lesotho were working in the Republic at the latest specified date for which figures are available and (b) what is the position in respect of residential rights for such citizens?

†The DEPUTY MINISTER OF CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING

(a) 139 827 registered in employment as at 30 June 1985

(b) All these Lesotho Citizens are contract workers and in accordance with the Labour agreement with Lesotho are allowed in the Republic for a maximum period of two years whereafter a new contract must be attested in Lesotho

East London Prison: certain person
*20 **HANS: 25/2/86**
Mr A SAVVAGE asked the Minister of Justice:

(1) Whether a certain person from Pearson, whose name has been furnished to the Minister's Department for the purpose of his reply, was held at East London Prison in 1985; if so, (a) on what date was he imprisoned there and (b) what was his age;

(2) whether this person had been convicted; if so, (a) of what offence and (b) what sentence was he serving; if not, on what charges was he held,

(3) whether this person died while he was in this prison; if so, (a) when and (b) what was the cause of death;

(4) whether an inquest has been held in this regard, if not, (a) why not and (b) when will it be held, if so, (i) when and (ii) what were the findings,

(5) whether the family of this person was informed of (a) his death and (b) the outcome of the inquest, if not, why not; if so, when;

(6) whether any action has been or is to be taken as a result of the (a) death of this person and (b) findings of the inquest, if so, what action,

(7) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

The MINISTER OF MINERAL AND ENERGY AFFAIRS (for the Minister of Justice)

(1) Yes

(a) 2 August 1985

(b) 22 Years

(2) Yes

(a) Public violence

(b) Eight (8) years imprisonment of which two (2) years were conditionally suspended for five (5) years

(3) Yes.

(a) He died on 21 September 1985 in the intensive care unit of the Frere Hospital where he was admitted on 13 September 1985

(b) According to the abridged certificate of registration of death

issued by a medical practitioner of the Frere Hospital, the cause is: "Adult respiratory distress syndrome".

(4) No

(a) The prisoner died of natural causes

(b) Falls away

(i) and (ii) Fall away

(5) (a) Yes, on 21 September 1985.

(b) Falls away

(6) (a) No

(b) Falls away.

(7) No

St Albans Prison: certain person
*21. **HANS: 25/2/86**
Mr A SAVVAGE asked the Minister of Justice:

(1) Whether a certain person, whose name has been furnished to the Minister's Department for the purpose of his reply, was held in St Albans Prison in 1985; if so, (a) on what date was he imprisoned there and (b) what was his age,

(2) whether this person had been convicted; if so, (a) of what offence and (b) what sentence was he serving, if not, on what charge was he held;

(3) whether this person died while he was in this prison, if so, (a) when and (b) what was the cause of death;

(4) whether an inquest has been held in this regard, if not, (a) why not and (b) when will it be held, if so, (i) when and (ii) what were the findings;

(5) whether the family of this person was informed of (a) his death and (b) the outcome of the inquest; if not, why not; if so, when,

25/11/86

Wkly News 25/11/86

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WEEKEND FOCUS

In the wake of Lesotho, how does the rest of Southern Africa look?

JOHN D'OLIVEIRA, Editor, Weekend Argus Africa News Service, writing from Johannesburg

After the coup

THE military coup in Lesotho has turned a spotlight on the fragility of political power in Southern Africa. Chief Leabua Jonathan ruled the mountain kingdom for 20 years and few people expected the sudden reversal of his political fortunes which was confirmed at 6am on Monday when Radio Lesotho announced power had been seized by the 'Lesotho Military Council'.

In the wake of the dramatic developments in Lesotho, how does the rest of Southern Africa look?

South Africa, the largest and the most powerful of the region's countries is going through a painful — and potentially dangerous — process of "adaptation" punctuated by bloody internal unrest, the collapse of the rand and increased pressure from both the West and the African National Congress

However, the country's powerful security services have flexed very few of their muscles and South Africa appears to be a long way from dramatic change, whether that change is evolutionary or revolutionary

South Africa's most immediate problems are economic — if only because economic factors have contributed so significantly to the unrest. Fortunately, the country's economy is basically both sound and strong

Zimbabwe

ZIMBABWE — despite, or possibly because of, all the blood shed in recent years — is one of the more stable countries in the region

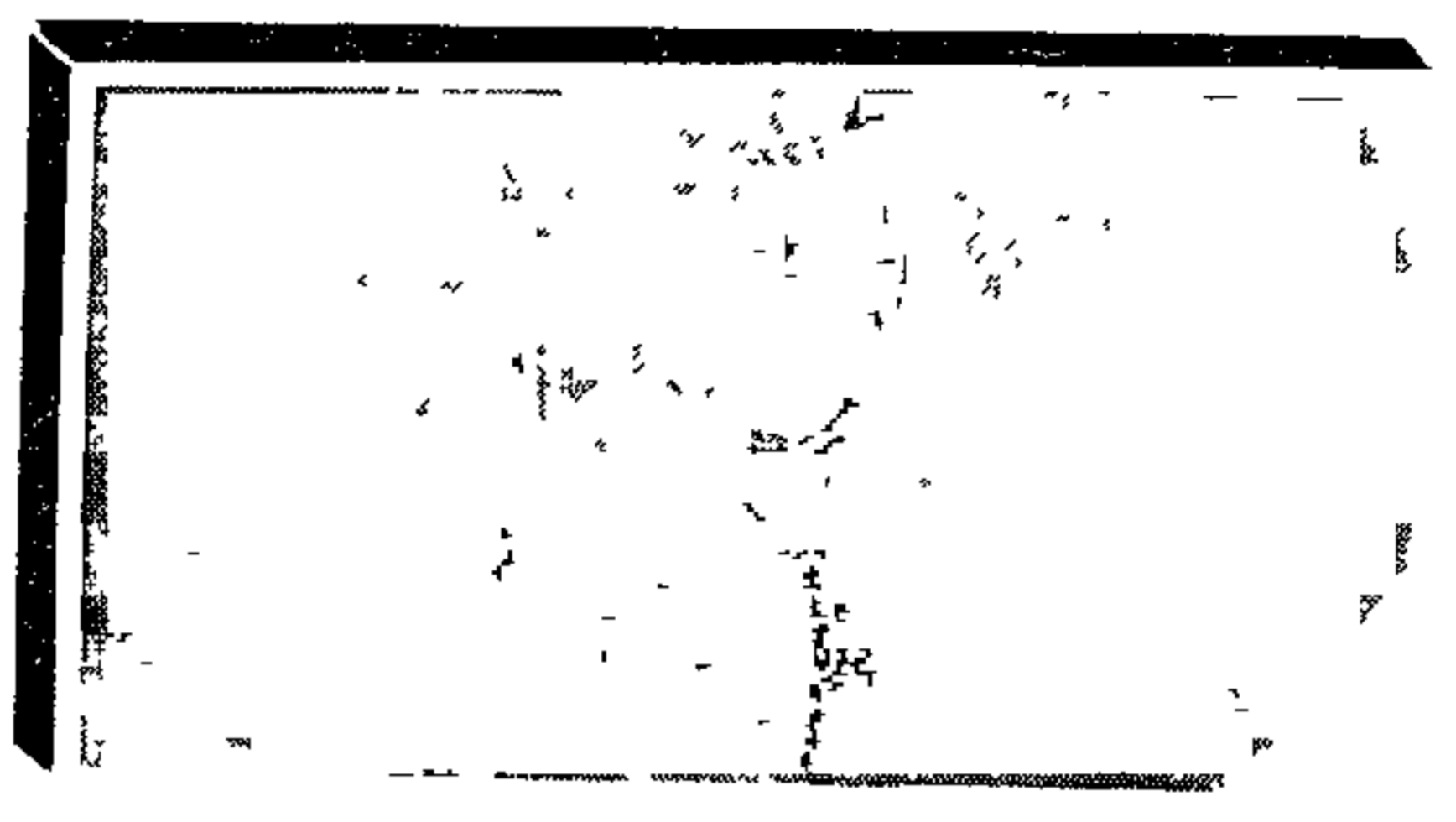
The Mugabe regime has managed to sustain a surprising level of economic activity and all the indications are that it has virtually ended the rebellion in Matabeland

Mr Mugabe appears to be in full control, successfully walking the narrow and sometimes stormy path between the Marxism advocated by some of his hard-line supporters and the capitalist pragmatism required by the needs of his country. He may please neither the Marxists nor the pragmatists, but he is doing well by most African standards

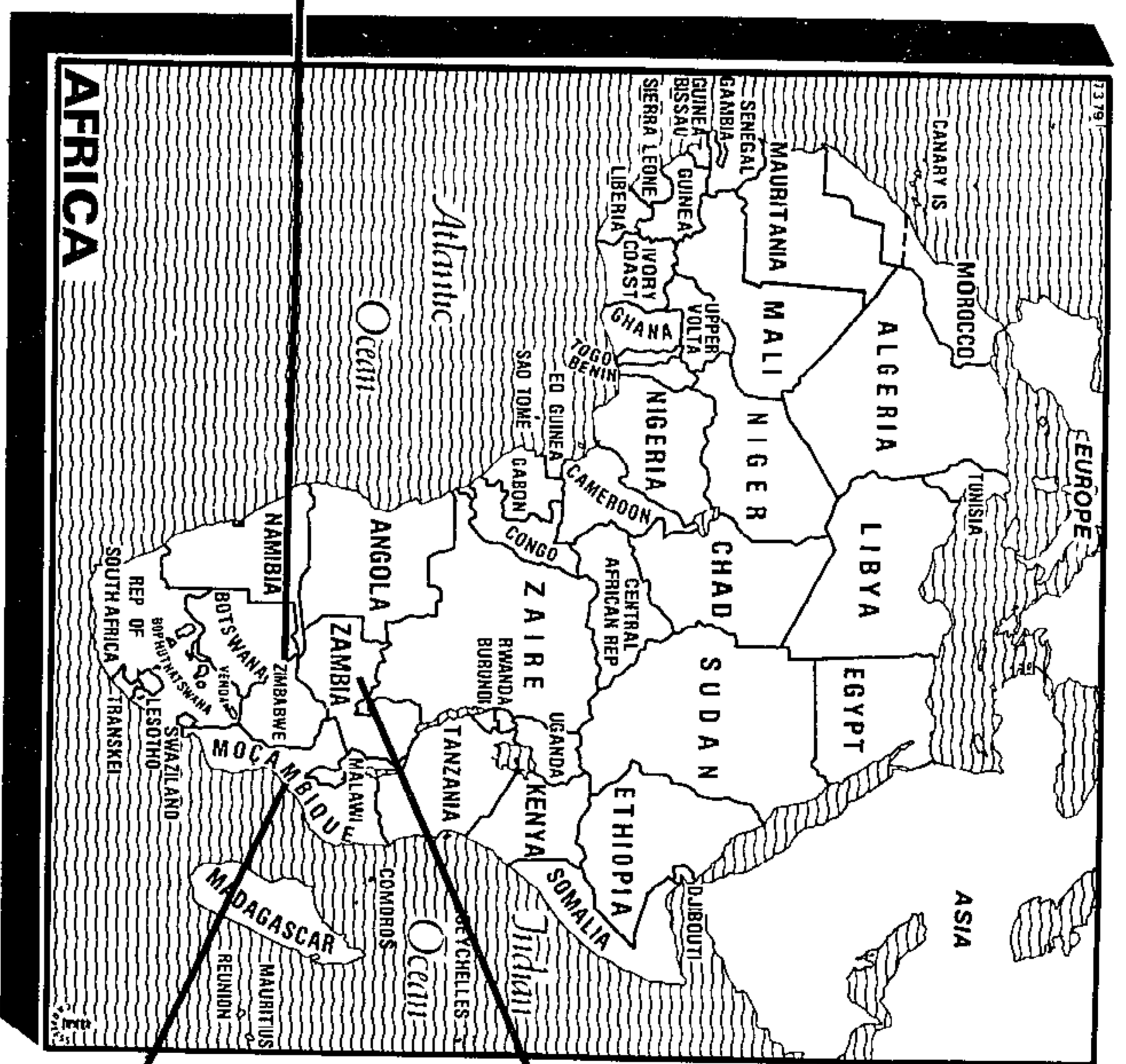
Mozambique

MOZAMBIQUE is on the brink of both economic and political chaos. Its economy has been devastated by mismanagement and by the ravages of war

First it was the war between Frelimo and the Portuguese and then the increasingly bloody and costly civil war between Maputo and the Mozambique Resistance Movement, created by the Rhodesians and sustained by the South Africans until the signing of the Nkomati Agreement in 1984



MUGABE, of Zimbabwe



involved since Nkomati, Mozambique has repeatedly accused South Africa of continuing its support for and its supplies to the MNR

Despite Maputo's claims that it has seized the military initiative from the MNR, there is so little control outside the major centres that the "bandits" roam about the countryside almost at will

Angola

ANGOLA, massively burdened by the bills from its Communist allies, is preparing itself — once again — for the "final assault" on Dr Jonas Savimbi's Unita guerrilla movement. America, in turn, is readying itself to provide Unita with either covert or overt aid

Unita, with substantial support from South Africa, has already dealt the Angolan government forces a series of bloody noses and few people believe that the civil war can be won by either side

Most observers of Angolan politics believe the government wants to push Dr Savimbi into a tiny corner of the country to reduce his bargaining power at the inevitable reconciliation negotiations. Dr Savimbi seeks the opposite

Apart from the revenue from its petroleum industry (financed and managed by western oil companies), the Angolan economy is in a state of collapse

The great danger to South Africa in the Angolan situation is that it might be drawn too deeply into the civil war there

Botswana

BOTSWANA, in contrast to most of the rest of the region, is a haven of tranquility, democracy and economic progress. Its major pre-occupation right now is the fear that the South African Defence Force will cross its borders (as it did in July last year) to avenge itself on the African National Congress

In 1985, for the first time in its history and in contrast to the African norm, Botswana exported more than it imported. Detached from the South African rand in 1979, the Botswanan pula now stands at

about 18 to 20 percent above the rand. There is growing opposition in the urban areas to Dr Quett Masire's government, but this opposition remains within the democratic system

Swaziland

SWAZILAND is stable and apparently tranquil. It has gone through a series of dramatic changes in behind-the-scenes political power since the death of King Sobhuza, but the situation appears to have settled down in anticipation of the crowning of the new King in a few months' time

Of all the southern African countries, Swaziland gives the South African Government the least "trouble" and it has probably benefited most from the development



KAUNDA, of Zambia



MACHEL, of Mozambique

oment generated in the region by the South African economy

Zambia

ZAMBIA remains an enigma. By most African standards the country's almost permanent state of economic crisis should have ended. President Kenneth Kaunda's tenure in State House

However, the charismatic President remains in power, even though the latest series of economic blows (like the devaluation of the Zambian currency by two-thirds) has brought unprecedented dissatisfaction to the surface in his country

President Kaunda's strength is partly due to the his endearing quality of admitting — freely and in public — to his own and his government's mistakes

Metsing Lekhanya — the shadowy, silent general

JOHN D'OLIVEIRA, Editor, Weekend Argus Africa News Service

JOHANNESBURG.— Metsing Justinus Lekhanya, the Major-General who toppled Lesotho's Chief Leabua Jonathan last week, remains a shadowy figure despite intense efforts by the world's press over the last week to build a picture of the man.

All attempts to get information about the 47-year-old policeman turned soldier turned head of government were met with firm, sometimes polite, refusals in Maseru this past week.

Staff and family members would not even confirm his date of birth or say how many children he has — so the record still says "several" children — and nobody could, or would, provide a photograph of the man who now heads Lesotho's "Military Council"

However, an associate who has had close professional dealings with the general has described him as a highly competent soldier who has no interest in politics but who is intensely patriotic.

He is said to be extremely loyal to King Moshoeshoe II, the 47-year-old Head of State, who came off second-best in a series of confrontations with Lesotho's

then Prime Minister Leabua Jonathan, during the early years of independence

At one stage, Chief Jonathan kept the King under virtual house arrest and later forced him to abdicate and go into exile in the Netherlands for about six months. Later the King was allowed back after accepting a proclamation forbidding him participation in "politics".

The associate described General Lekhanya as an extremely likeable man who preferred to keep a low profile outside his military duties.

Although a strict disciplinarian, it seemed he was well liked by his men and it appeared that he had their loyalty.

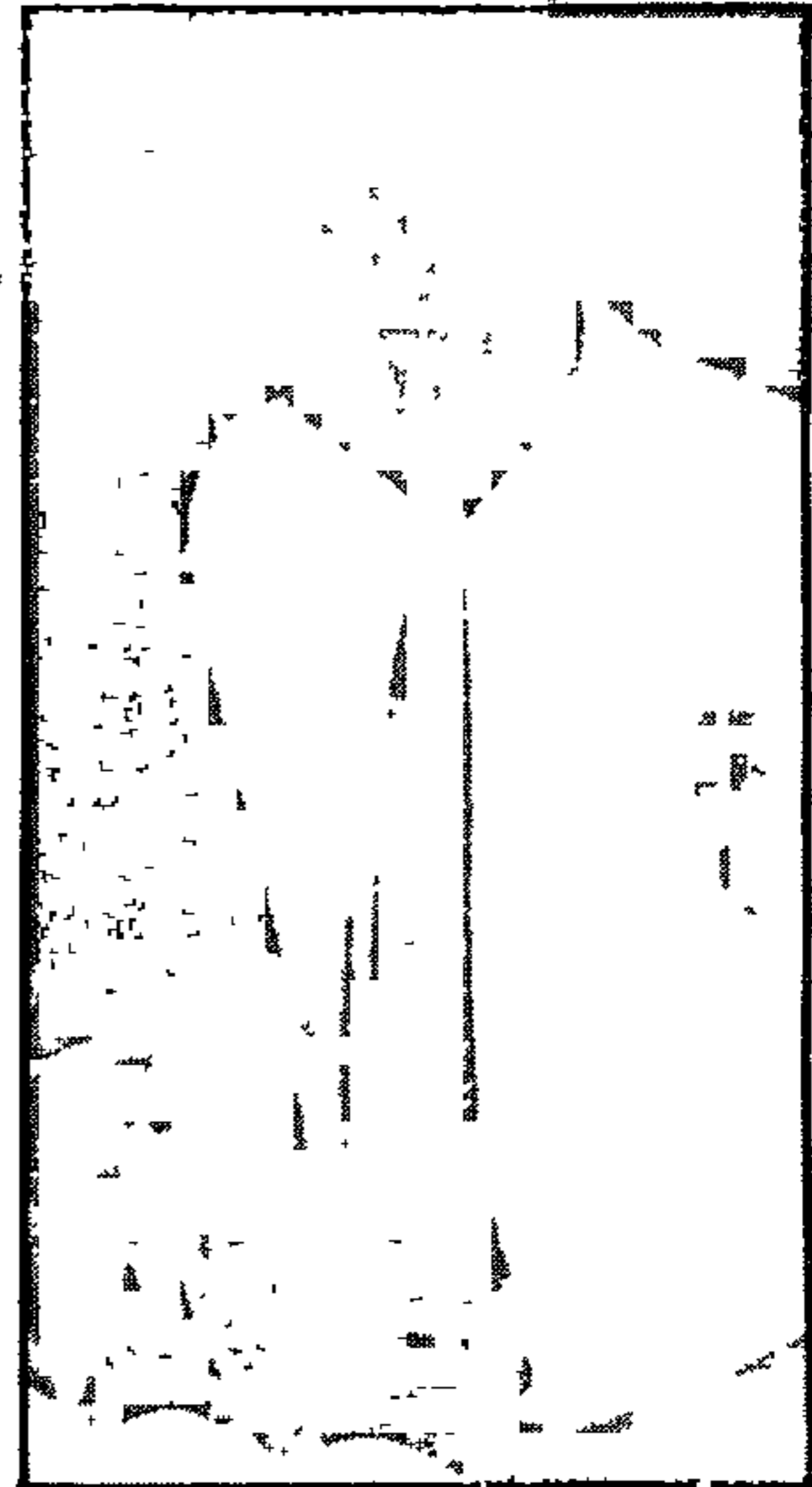
"He is a very good soldier, very patriotic and very efficient and honest. He appears to be apolitical — in fact he seems to have a contempt for politicians."

A stocky, clean-shaven man of medium height, the general is believed to have served all his professional life in the Lesotho Paramilitary Force that he now commands and its predecessor, the Lesotho Mounted Police Mobile Unit.

He is a keen flyer, collects guns as a hobby and spends as much time as possible on his small farm near Maseru.

It has been reported that General Lekhanya was born on April 9, 1938, and that he served as a security police sergeant in 1970 when Chief Jonathan staged his own coup, suspended the constitution, and bloodily crushed insurrection

He is believed to have received some police training in Great Britain



General Lekhanya — mysterious, silent figure.

The general was a member of the top-ranking Lesotho delegation which travelled to South Africa earlier this month to launch talks on the border problems.

He played a low-key role in the talks — and about the only picture of him available to the world's press was the one enlarged from the group photograph of the Lesotho delegation to the talks

Coup ushers in indefinite military rule

By Gerald L'Ange,
The Star's Africa
News Service

MASERU — The coup that toppled former Prime Minister Leabua Jonathan has committed Lesotho to military or one-party rule indefinitely, according to knowledgeable analysts in Maseru.

The Western-style democracy that the kingdom's British protectors sought to leave behind them seems destined to elude Lesotho for a long time.

Chief Jonathan's seizure of power shortly after independence and his failure to hold clearly free and open elections

prevented the Basotho from installing a freely-chosen government for nearly two decades.

He blamed the insurgency of the exiled wing of the opposition Basotuland Congress Party for preventing elections. His opponents said the real reason was Jonathan's fear of losing. Their claim seems to have been born out by the gerrymandering of the 1985 election which Jonathan's Basotho National Party won by default when the opposition refused to participate.

Against this background of strife and dissension, the military leaders who ousted Jonathan and his government last Sunday clearly doubt the country is

ready for a viable election which would produce a stable and recognised government.

They have opted for a compromise which puts the administration of the country in the hands of the king and the civil service but keeps political power in the hands of the military.

The order of the new Lesotho Military Council which sets out this arrangement provides for it to be scrapped whenever the military leaders consider the political feudists are sufficiently reconciled to elect a government.

Knowledgeable analysts doubt this situation will be achieved

for many years, given the Basotho's inherent political combativeness.

In the meantime, they believe, reconciliation is going to be the watchword of the military rulers. To create a climate conducive to reconciliation, they are expected to outlaw all political party activity indefinitely.

Ntsu Mokhehle and other members of the exiled Basotho-land Congress Party will be allowed to return to Lesotho provided they refrain from party politics. An amnesty is expected to be offered to members of the BCP's armed wing, the Lesotho Liberation Army.

By creating an executive monarchy the soldiers have cleverly made it difficult for any politician to attack the government without attacking the king. If the king becomes too powerful, dictatorial or inept to the liking of the military, they can take back the powers they have vested in him.

The policies and practices likely to develop in this situation can only be guessed at. But analysts consider it likely that even the conservative military leaders will find it necessary to introduce an element of socialism, considering Lesotho is a country too poor to have Western style capitalism.

Division tactics caused Jonathan's downfall

By Gerald L'Ange,
The Star's Africa
News Service

MASERU — The divide-and-rule strategy that Chief Leabua Jonathan used to keep himself in power in Lesotho for more than 20 years caused his downfall ultimately.

He made the mistake of trying to use the strategy against the Lesotho Paramilitary Force (LPF) — the only entity in Lesotho that had the power to overthrow him.

The former Prime Minister's fatal error was to arm the youth league of his ruling Basotho National Party and to set them up against the LPF. Ostensibly, Chief Jonathan armed the youths to help repel the insurgent Lesotho Liberation Army that had been trying to overthrow Jonathan's regime, and to help maintain law and order.

However, he had another motive, according to knowledgeable sources in Maseru. This was to create a private army to counter the LPF, on whom he did not want to rely entirely for the protection of his autocratic government.

This was in keeping with the strategy of splitting any actual or potential opposition that had enabled the portly chief to retain the power he seized in 1970.

when he realised he was losing the general election to leftist Ntsu Mokhehle and his Basotho-land Congress Party.

The policy had worked well with political forces, but when applied to security forces it was another matter. The LPF was outraged — arming of the youth league implied that the security forces were incapable of protecting the Government.

Some youth league members rubbed salt into the wound by publicly taunting LPF members. When the youths began bullying the public, swaggering around the villages and even at the university with their automatic rifles, many regular soldiers felt the youths had become an intolerable threat to the LPF.

One or the other had to give — and some of the colonels in the army were determined it was not going to be the LPF.

When Chief Jonathan ignored private requests that the youth league be disarmed, the colonels moved to enforce their demands. There is some confusion about when Major-General Justin Lekhanya, the apolitical commander of the LPF, decided to lead the move. According to some accounts, he stepped in only when it became clear the colonels were determined to go ahead.

However, personally, the general had been given good reason to support action against Jonathan. The Prime Minister, in a further exercise of his divide-and-rule strategy, had taken to by-passing the LPF commander to show special favour to the deputy commander, Brigadier B M Ramotsekhoane.

The LPF demands for action against the youth league became more imperative because

of reports that some in the league were demanding that Jonathan dismiss LPF officers who were opposed to their efforts to persuade the government take a harder line against Pretoria and heighten its support for the ANC.

The LPF's demands were pressed virtually at gunpoint when the soldiers surrounded the Prime Minister's office on January 15, a Wednesday. This brought to a head dissension between the LPF leaders and some officers sympathetic to the youth league. There was a shootout, which the dissidents lost.

By the Sunday the military leaders were convinced Chief Jonathan was stalling and they decided they had no alternative but to depose him.



Chief Jonathan . . . his strategy worked in a political situation but not with the security forces.



Opposition to Lesotho regime will be crushed'

The Star's Africa
News Service

MASERU — In his first broadcast to the Basotho nation last night, the chairman of Lesotho's new Military Council, Major-General Metsing Lekhanya, attacked the country's politicians, warning that any opposition to the Military Council's rule would be crushed "ruthlessly".

The general said the Military Council had decided that all politics in Lesotho should cease because politics had led to the problems in which the country found itself today.

In a nationwide broadcast on Radio Lesotho the general also said Lesotho's new military rulers would work towards improved relations between Lesotho and South Africa.

The general made the broadcast only three hours after he was sworn in with the five other council members before King Moshoeshoe 2. He reviewed the political situation in Lesotho over the years and said it had been placed in a "quagmire" by politicians whose activities were not related to the people's wishes.

Relations with her neighbours had deteriorated to an alarming degree and the economy of the country had collapsed. The army found it necessary to intervene in order to build peace and tranquillity among the people of Lesotho.

Major-General Lekhanya said the council was determined to build peace and reconciliation in Lesotho and any act of subversion or criminal activity planned to defeat its aims would not be tolerated.

He said to show the Military Council's sincerity in its attempts to establish peace in Lesotho, it would soon announce a general amnesty for all Basotho in and outside the country. This amnesty would enable them to become free and to enjoy rights in their own country. The council had the right to renew the treaties or agreements negotiated by the previous government", he said.

Lesotho expels 60 supporters of ANC

CAC Tropic
25/1/86

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MASERU — Lesotho's new Military Council was sworn in at the Royal Palace yesterday and the tiny kingdom deported at least 60 supporters of the African National Congress (ANC) guerilla group in a bid to remove strains with South Africa.

Major-General Justin Lekhanya, head of Lesotho's 1500-man paramilitary force and the man who overthrew the autocratic prime minister, Chief Leabua Jonathan on Monday, took the oath of office as chairman of the new council.

The brief ceremony took place before King Moshoeshoe II and Chief Justice Tofik Cotran.

First batch

The swearing-in took place as about 60 refugees of the ANC were flown out of Lesotho to Zambia, according to government sources.

The refugees are apparently the first batch of some 140 people, whom South Africa has demanded be expelled.

Most of the refugees flown out yesterday were believed to be sympathisers of the ANC, although they may have included some from the Pan-Africanist Congress.

The new military rulers have also released five prominent opposition leaders detained by Chief Jonathan after holding talks with South Africa's Foreign Minister, Mr Pik Botha.

In a nationwide broadcast over Radio Lesotho last night, General Lekhanya said the aim of the new rulers was to normalize relations between Lesotho and South Africa.

In his first address to the Basotho nation, General Lekhanya said he believed in the policy of peaceful coexistence and good-neighbourliness.

"Over a long period the Basotho nation has been plunged into a quagmire of politics by politicians whose activities did not serve the best interests of the people."

'Country's economy destroyed'

He said the activities of politicians in Lesotho had damaged relations between Lesotho and South Africa and this had led to the destruction of the economy of the country.

General Lekhanya also warned his opponents to stop resisting the new government, to "avoid bloodshed involving innocent people."

Anthony Johnson reports that a message denying that South Africa had closed its border with Lesotho was sent to the UN Secretary-General, Mr Perez de Cuellar, by Mr Pik Botha yesterday.

The message from Mr Botha said that traffic — both people and goods — was being allowed to pass between the two countries.

"Special arrangements are in force for perishable goods, medical supplies and persons who wish to come to South Africa for medical treatment," Mr Botha said.

"However, South Africa was constrained to introduce stricter border control measures as a result of the confirmed presence of the ANC terrorists in Lesotho and the threat they pose to internal security in South Africa." — Sapa-Reuter

Cops in 'verbal attack'

THE central committee of the National Union of Mineworkers is to meet soon to discuss the attitude of the Lesotho police towards a NUM

delegation which went to Butha-Buthe to attend a funeral at the weekend of one of its leading members. In a statement

Johannesburg yesterday, a spokesman for the NUM said the meeting would be held "with a view to possibly seeking an audience with King Moshoeshoe II to clarify his government's attitude towards trade unions."

Protest

The spokesman said the NUM delegation of 200 came under "heavy verbal attack" by Lesotho police at the funeral of a "leading union member, Mr Leslie Matela."

He said the delegation spoke to the family of Mr Matela, made a statement condemning the attitude of the police then left the funeral in protest.

Sapa.

Border curbs go as 60 ANC leave

w/t Argus 25/1/86 16Z

AS the first group of 60 ANC refugees left Maseru by air today, the South African Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Pik Botha, announced that the strict special security measures recently imposed on South Africa's borders with Lesotho had been lifted.

The refugees left Moshoeshe International Airport near Maseru in a chartered Air Zimbabwe Viscount

A Lesotho Government spokesman said in Maseru that South Africa told the Lesotho Military Council that unless ANC refugees named in a specific list were removed from Lesotho the South African Government would continue with the border blockade

Mr Botha said in Cape Town today that lifting the controls was the result of an agreement reached between the South African Government and the Government of General Justin Lekhanya during discussions this week

The Minister said in a statement that there had been talks between the two governments on "several important matters of mutual interest to the two countries"

Security issue

"One of the most important issues was the question of security measures affecting the two neighbours

"The two governments subscribe to the principle that neither would allow its territory to be used for the planning or execution of acts of violence or terror and that they would take steps to see that this was effectively applied

"In the light of this the Government has decided to lift the border control measures"

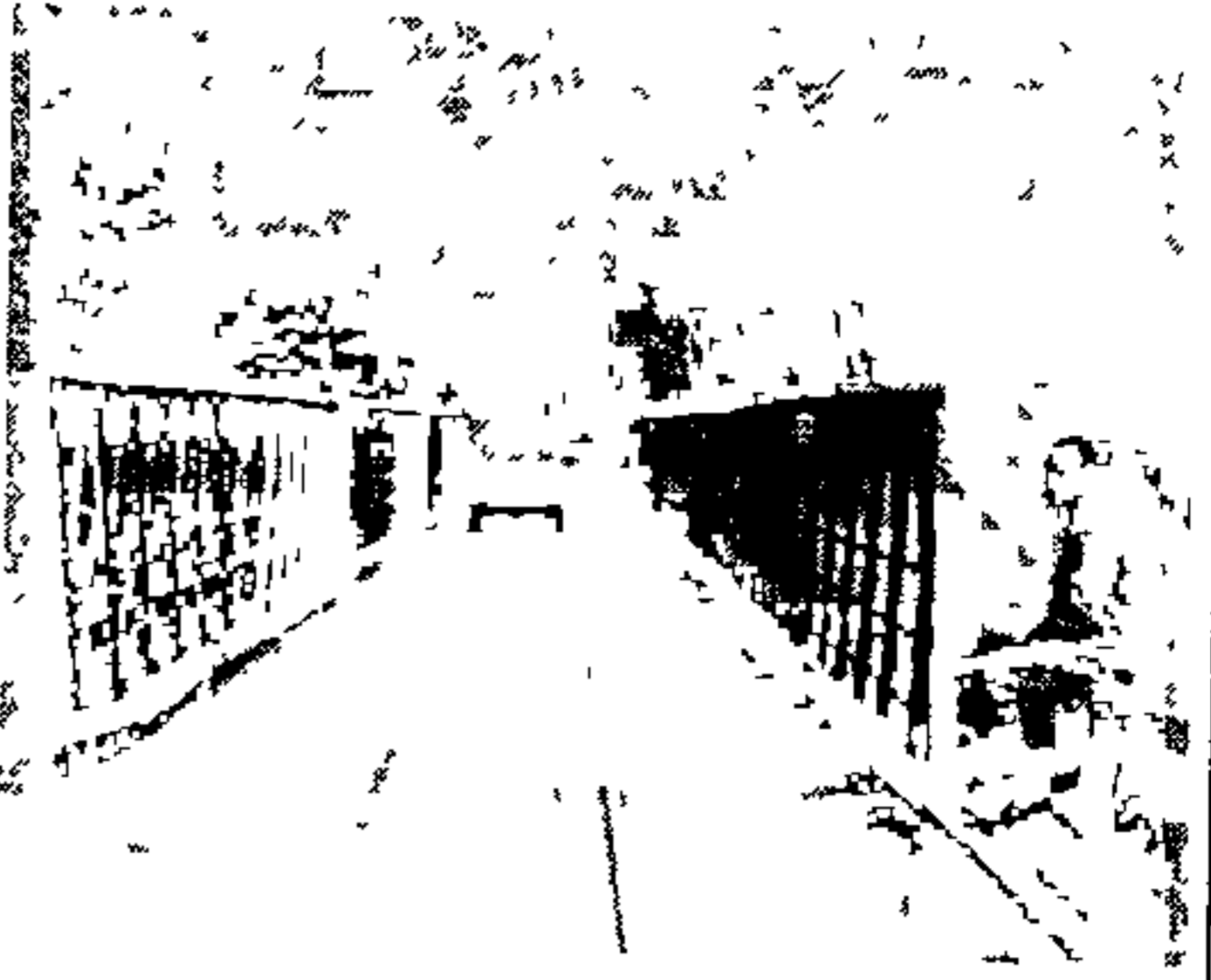
Traffic that had earlier been backed up for more than a kilometre flowed through the Maseru border post into Lesotho within minutes today after South Africa officially lifted the border squeeze

Mr Pik Botha's announcement officially came into effect at 1pm, although the SABC had reported that the border situation had been "normalised" at 11 15am

Soon after 1pm the main flow of traffic from the South African side had gone through and only a smooth flow of new arrivals could be seen entering Maseru

Group of 30 students

Meanwhile, a group of 30 South African refugee students left Maseru today for Tanzania on the scheduled Royal Swazi Airlines flight to Nairobi. They were not part of the arrangement and their departure was part of the scheme to send young South African refugees for training abroad



OPEN AGAIN

A lone bakkie crosses the bridge into Lesotho soon after the restrictions were lifted and the flow of traffic reverted to normal



UNLOADING

Each bag is searched. At times it took all day for a handful of vehicles to cross the border



South Africa yesterday informed the United Nations that its border with Lesotho had not been closed and that people and goods alike were allowed to pass through

In a message to the Secretary-General, Dr Perez de Cuellar, Mr Pik Botha said, however, that South Africa had had no choice but to introduce stricter border control measures because of the confirmed presence of ANC terrorists in Lesotho — Week-end Argus Political Staff and Sapa

THE CHAOS

The chaos brought to the Maseru border post by the restrictions imposed by South Africa has ended. Scenes like this are over.

Superceding w.d.

AREA A : Oudtshoorn

AREA B : East London

AREA C : Bellville
Elizabeth, Simon
Boksburg, Brakpan
Krugersdorp, Nigel
Roodepoort, Springs
and Wonderboom.

The coup was an SA operation, says ex-Minister

CP Correspondent

THE Zimbabwe Herald has quoted an unnamed former Lesotho government Minister as saying this week's military coup was "entirely an SA operation"

The former Cabinet Minister also told The Herald this week that members of the ANC in Lesotho were being prosecuted and that some of them were being arrested by SA soldiers

He said that Major-General Justin Lekhanya, the para-military force commander who was reported to have led the coup, had told deposed Prime Minister Leabua Jonathan that he had nothing to do with the coup

The newspaper charged that two brothers with the surname Lethie, one of whom is said to be a colonel in the para-military force, were being used by SA to run Lesotho

The Lethie brothers were in touch with SA and appeared "to have allowed the racist forces freely to hunt down refugee members of the ANC", said the report

The Herald added that Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca, who was visiting Lesotho at the time of the coup, was still stranded in Maseru late this week

● SA has denied involvement in the coup

sriver, Port
ton, Benoni,
empton Park,
Randfontein,
Westonaria,

LOW clouds of uncertainty hung over Lesotho yesterday - the third day since the military coup which ousted Prime Minister Leabua Jonathan after 20 years

And with a tight silence from the new authorities - besides their special government gazette announcing the country would be run by the Military Council - rumours abound.

The public is confused - new Lesotho strongman, army chief Justin Lekhanye, pledged his loyalty to Jonathan on Radio Lesotho last Saturday, then seized power less than 48 hours later

And traffic into and out of the tiny kingdom is still being delayed by up to two days by SA border security checks

"They (the SA Government) are now twisting the knives they stuck into Lesotho's stomach," I was told

The feeling in Maseru is that SA precipitated the coup by its border blockade, and that President PW Botha's Government is making sure Lesotho gives in to all SA demands before allowing traffic to flow

On Monday - within hours of the coup - a train which had idled at Maseru Bridge for two weeks was suddenly allowed in. But the next day the blockade was back - if anything, tighter than ever

Companies in Lesotho have gone bankrupt and little fresh food is getting in

"I normally import 20 tons of vegetables a week," OK Bazaars' Maseru manager told me, "but I stopped in December because it arrived here rotten"

No joy yet for troubled Lesotho

And a local transport company scoffed at SA suggestions that medical supplies were given priority

Pointing to one of his lorries, he told me "That has been in a queue for more than 24 hours I told them (SA authorities) that there were medical supplies in it - I was told it had to take its turn"

★ Jonathan and several of his Ministers are under

house arrest
Information Minister Desmond Sixishe has been moved - with his family and his furniture - to a secret hideout

The Basotho National Party Youth League has been put to flight

Many of its leaders have been detained, but the Youth League is 700-strong - half the strength of Lesotho's standing army.

★ WEDNESDAY'S special Lesotho Government Gazette gives King Moeshoeshoe II the country's legislative and executive powers.

The gazette makes provision for a Council of Ministers appointed by King Moeshoeshoe II. The King will rule "with the advice of the military council".

The order which confers power on the King has repealed an Act passed by the Lesotho Parliament in 1983.

SA-Lesotho traffic in ¹⁶⁷ smooth flow ^{BUS DAY}

^{27/11/86}
Business Day Reporter and Sapa

LESOTHO traffic flow was back to normal yesterday after the lifting of border restrictions by South Africa on Saturday morning.

At the Ficksburg border post, traffic was flowing smoothly without congestion while a steady movement of traffic and people was apparent outside Maseru.

The lifting of the strict security control measures followed the deportation of about 60 ANC supporters by Lesotho's new military council headed by Major-General Justin Lekhanya.

It could not be established yesterday whether or not the council had ordered all flights entering and leaving Lesotho to stop over at SA airports and whether this was a term of the Lesotho-SA security pact.

International Air Control at Jan Smuts airport could throw no light on the alleged order.

No official notification had been received in this regard, a spokesman said, adding that only scheduled flights had landed over the weekend.

Meanwhile, Zimbabwean Foreign Minister Witness Mangwende, speaking at a dinner over the weekend in honour of visiting Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca, said this week's coup in Lesotho might mark the first phase of a new and more overt policy of destabilisation of neighbouring black states by SA.

CAPE TOWN

27/1/86

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SADCC

focus on Lesotho coup

From MICHAEL
HARTNACK

HARARE — The Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference (SADCC), founded in 1980 to reduce reliance of its members on Pretoria, will hold its annual conference here on Thursday and Friday

The Commonwealth secretary-general, Sir Sridath Ramphal, is expected to attend. Australia, Canada, China and the Nordic countries are among 40 states sending delegations

Of special interest will be the treatment the Zimbabwean hosts accord envoys expected from Lesotho — the kingdom's first public contact with its eight SADCC partners since last week's coup

The Zimbabwean Prime Minister, Mr Robert Mugabe, is likely to give his own reaction to events in Lesotho when he opens the conference

The Sunday Mail, which generally reflects official thinking, yesterday made a renewed attack on the reluctance of Western nations to impose sanctions against Pretoria on the grounds that they would not destroy apartheid

Ironically, it said, South Africa's blockade of Lesotho had shown how a determined economic campaign could force change

Business

as usual

in Lesotho

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Mercury
27 JAN '88

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Mercury Correspondent

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Criticism

Department of Foreign Affairs and air traffic control spokesmen at Bloemfontein airport refused to comment.

The expulsion of ANC supporters drew international criticism

Cuba said Lesotho's problems were further proof of South African destabilisation, while Zimbabwe repeated calls for economic sanctions

against South Africa

South Africa's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Pik Botha, announced in Cape Town on Saturday that the two countries had agreed not to allow their territories to be used for acts of aggression against each other.

Shortly after his announcement, traffic flow that for the past few weeks had been reduced to a trickle was moving normally across the Lesotho border

In Maseru, the country's new leader, Maj Gen Metsing Lekhanya, appeared to have consolidated his position and life in the capital continued unchanged — (Sapa)

Cape Times
28/1/86
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New Lesotho council named

MASERU — Lesotho's first Council of Ministers established since the military coup that toppled Chief Leabua Jonathan's government last week was sworn in yesterday.

The swearing-in ceremony took place before King Moshoeshoe II at the Royal Palace and the oaths of office and allegiance were administered by the Chief Justice of Lesotho, Mr Justice Tofik Cotran.

One former minister in Chief Jonathan's government was among the ministers sworn in yesterday. He is Mr Evaristus Sekhonyana, who is Minister of Finance.

The others include the younger brother of King Moshoeshoe, Chief Matheanira Seiso, civil servants, school teachers, a medical practitioner and two opposition leaders.

The opposition leaders are the president of the Marematlou Freedom Party, Mr Bennett Khaketla, and Mr Moletsane Mokoroane of the Internal Wing of the Opposition Basotholand Congress Party.

King Moshoeshoe said after the swearing-in ceremony that the past week had seen a dramatic development in the history of Lesotho.

"It would appear that this change of government was a bloodless affair and that the event was received with approval by the Basotho nation."

The king said the armed forces intervened with a view "to restoring peace and national reconciliation among the Basotho people, and to put an end to the political turmoil of the past 20 years."

The king said Lesotho's foreign policy had to be geared towards defending the country's existence as a sovereign independent and non-aligned state.

Lesotho should strive to develop normal, peaceful and good neighbourly relations with all her neighbours on the basis of mutual respect and equality. This had to be based on the principle of non-interference in each others' affairs — without across-the-border raids and economic blockades, the king said — Sapa.

Lesotho: Meeting of new Cabinet

Argus Africa News Service

MASERU — The Council of Ministers formed in Lesotho following the military coup which overthrew the government of Chief Leabua Jonathan last week is to hold its first Cabinet meeting today

The new Ministers took the oath of office before King Moshoeshoe II here yesterday

The 17-man Cabinet is headed by the chairman of the Military Council of Lesotho, Major-General Justin Lekhanya, who is expected to hold his first Press conference today.

It includes the king's brother, Chief Mathealaira Siso, who becomes Minister of the Interior and Chieftainship Affairs, and a former Minister in Chief Jonathan's Cabinet, Mr Evaristus Sekhonyana, who is Minister of Finance

OPPOSITION LEADERS

There are two opposition leaders in the Cabinet — Mr Bennett Khaketna, president of the Marematlou Freedom Party, and Chief Moletsane Mokoane of the opposition Basutoland Congress Party.

The Cabinet also includes three senior officers of the Lesotho Paramilitary Force.

Speaking after the swearing-in ceremony yesterday, the king said the change of government had been "a bloodless affair which was received with approval by the Basotho nation"

On Lesotho's foreign policy the king said the new government would continue to provide "traditional and historical protection for refugees from political persecution" and would continue to abide by the international conventions of which it is a signatory

RESIDENTS of Maseru, capital of the tiny mountain kingdom of Lesotho, celebrated the overthrow of Prime Minister Leabua Jonathan by dancing in the main street, singing the praises of the man behind the coup, General Justin Lekhanya, and chorusing their condemnation of the 20-year-old regime of Chief Jonathan

The suspicion that General Lekhanya, commander of the Lesotho Para-Military Force (PMF), had been given a nudge by neighbouring South Africa seemed to be irrelevant to their jubilation

Dislike of Chief Jonathan was seemingly stronger than their traditional enmity with South Africa's rulers

Boers

One leading former minister had no doubts of South African involvement "The Boers are behind this," he whispered into the telephone within minutes of the radio broadcast last Monday announcing the coup.

He was echoing the claim by Chief Jonathan at his last Press conference as prime minister that his armed forces and civil service had been infiltrated by South Africans

Whether South Africa had a hand in the coup is a matter of conjecture. What is certain is that General Lekhanya met top South African officials, including members of the defence force, to discuss ways of resolving the crisis caused by South Africa's economic blockade of Lesotho

There would have been plenty of opportunity for South Africa to assure General Lek-

AFTER THE FALL OF LEABUA JONATHAN

Did SA have a hand in coup?

FOCUS

SPECIAL Correspondent

hanya of its support if he moved against Chief Jonathan

If there is no concrete evidence that General Lekhanya was encouraged by South Africa to press ahead with the coup, there are unmistakable indicators that Chief Jonathan's demise was welcomed in South Africa

ANC

Within hours of the coup a train pulling petrol tankers and trucks with much needed supplies was allowed through into Lesotho from South Africa

Chief Jonathan is thoroughly disliked in South Africa's corridors of power for his support of the outlawed African National Congress and

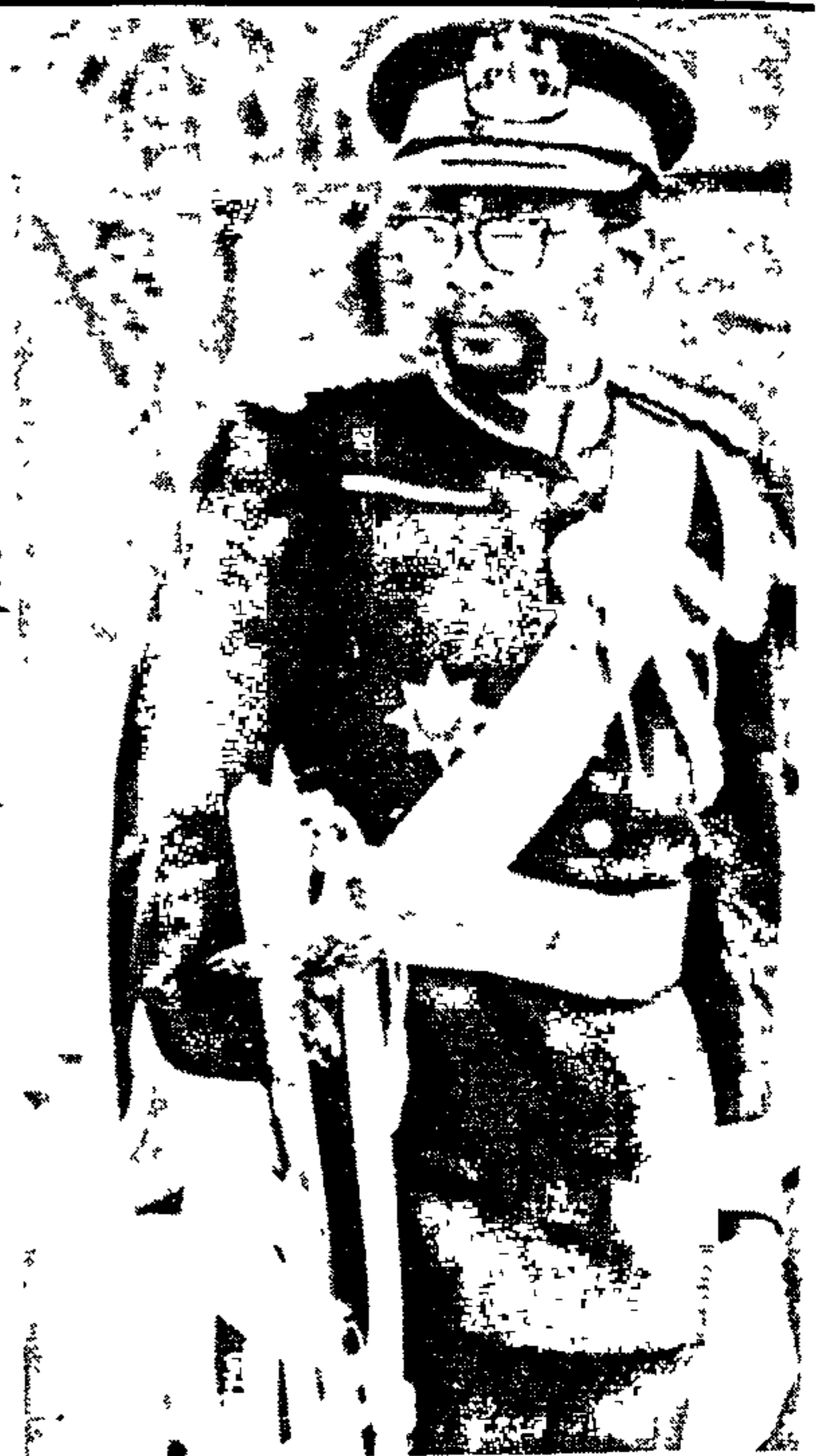
for, in recent years, his wooing of the communist bloc

It was his alleged willingness to tolerate the ANC, which is fighting an underground war to topple the South African Government, which led to the imposition of the blockade. It had earlier precipitated raids into Lesotho by South African commandos — or men widely suspected of being commandos masquerading as rebels of the Lesotho Liberation Army — and the killing of ANC members as well as Lesotho nationals

The advent of the new military regime presages other important developments, the first relating to foreign relations and the second to internal policy

Even before the coup Lesotho had agreed to establish a joint security commission with South Africa, on which three

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Source: AN 28/1/86



KING MOSHOESHOE II

representatives from each country will serve. The commission will stop short of being a full-blown non-aggression treaty along the lines of the Nkomati Accord signed between South Africa and Mozambique in March 1984

Exiles

But it will enable South Africa to monitor the activities of South African exiles in Lesotho and to prevent Lesotho from serving as a guerrilla staging post

There is little doubt that the Lesotho's new military council will be more careful not to alienate South Africa's white rulers by moving too close to the ANC

That is not to imply that the British-trained General Lekhanya will be a South African puppet. His priority will be the welfare of impoverished Lesotho — one of the world's 25 least developed nations

The internal change could see the emergence of the King Moshoeshoe II from the strictly confined role as a constitutional monarch ascribed to him by Chief Jonathan to a more active form of leadership

King Moshoeshoe, a direct descendant of the founder of the Basotho nation, Moshoeshoe I, is seen by many Basotho as the one man that can unify the divided Basotho people. Copyright — London Observer Service

Lesotho will not send refugees back to SA

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The Star Bureau

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Botswana denies claims

HARARE — A senior Lesotho official says his country will continue to give assistance to South African refugees and to allow them safe passage to other friendly countries

The principal secretary for planning and economic affairs, Mr Moletsane Monyake, said the ruling military council had taken a pragmatic approach to mutual issues with South Africa but there was no question of refugees being returned to South Africa

Mr Monyake, who is leading the Lesotho delegation to the annual conference of the nine countries of the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference (SADCC), refused to be drawn on whether his country would continue to support the ANC

"It is too early to say," he said "The military council is still trying to find its feet. Several policies will come under review"

He dismissed allegations that South Africa was involved in the coup which, he said, was purely internal

On the implications of the airlift of some ANC personnel to Zambia, he said that "active combatants" would be airlifted out of Lesotho after consultation with the ANC

A statement issued in Harare by the ANC said the South African Government was putting pressure on Lesotho to expel all South African refugees and students in violation of international conventions to which Lesotho was a signatory

The executive secretary of the SADCC, Dr Simba Makoni, told newsmen that events in Lesotho clearly illustrated the dangers confronting the nine member states whose co-operation was a contingency plan to cope with South African actions

Zimbabwean Prime Minister Mr Robert Mugabe will open the conference on Thursday. Thirty-two countries from five continents will be represented and about 450 delegates will attend

The Botswana Government has denied South Africa's accusations that it allowed the ANC to use its country as an infiltration route

"If anyone knows of infiltration routes in Botswana, he is free to come and show them to us," Botswana said in a statement issued yesterday

The statement was in response to a warning by South Africa's Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Pik Botha at the weekend that the Defence Force would take "appropriate action" if Botswana did not close the ANC's infiltration routes

Botswana said it had not received any direct communication from South Africa concerning Mr Botha's warning

It took issue with Mr Botha's suggestion that Botswana said one thing in public and did another in private

Lehanya wants negotiation — at home and with South Africa

By Jean-Jacques Cornish,
The Star's Africa
News Service

MASERU — Lesotho's new ruling military council has stressed that it is first and foremost in the business of reconciliation.

And, significantly, at this first Press conference here yesterday, Major-General Metsing Justinus Lehanya — the man who led the January 20 coup toppling Chief Leabua Jonathan — emphasised mending fences with South Africa as often and as strongly as he did bringing together Lesotho's disparate political parties.

In the 20-minute conference General Lehanya said more than 10 times that he was for negotiation, both at home and with South Africa.

General Lehanya promised there would be no witch hunts or political vendettas against members of the former Jonathan government.

None of his major rivals — Chief Jobhathan, former Information Minister Mr Desmond Sixshe and Major-General Lehanya's former Second-in-Command Brigadier B M Ramotsekhoe — were detained.

But the conference gave little in

Lesotho's new ruler stresses reconciliation

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way of substance — why the coup was performed and where the military rulers planned to go from here.

General Lehanya limited himself to saying: "The military is the means to restore peace and national reconciliation among the Basotho people."

He did not mention the South African stranglehold on the border posts which amounted to an effective economic blockade of his country before the takeover.

Major General Lehanya showed himself to be astute at parrying pointed questions and a man of few words.

From his brief statement and replies to questions it was apparent that:

● Lesotho would continue to provide a home for South African refugees.

● Major General Lehanya said them, "Major General Lehanya said, "However, "active" ANC cadres would be ejected — like the 60 last Tuesday — "for their own safety and in the interests of Lesotho's national security".

South Africa would have some say in this at round-table talks but would have to substantiate any charges that refugees were in fact guerrillas.

● Lesotho saw no need to sign an Nkomat-type security pact with South Africa but would continue to use regular liaison machinery with South Africa on matters ranging from agriculture to security.

● Eastern bloc embassies in Maseru would stay open despite General Lehanya's professed anti-communist stand.

"I believe in the whole international society and community... I don't just paint anybody red or green," he said.

Lesotho's General Lehanya holds first Press conference.

Kingdom's new military rulers General Lehanya said he didn't know of ANC "activists" sheltering in Lesotho.

"There is a security arm charged with the responsibility of finding whether people are activists or not."

This body had not yet made any reports to substantiate the South African claim, he said.

His own potential guerrilla threat, that of the now disbanded Youth League of deposed Chief Jonathan's Basotholand National Party, was "no problem", insisted General Lehanya.

"Running their youth affairs they have no interference with the army. That being the case there is no need to have any threat from them," he said.

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SA exiles safe in Lesotho'

MASERU — Lesotho would maintain existing ties with socialist bloc countries for the time being, the new military ruler Major-General Metsing Lekhanya said at his first public appearance yesterday.



Lekhanya, flanked by the other five members of his ruling Military Council, said Lesotho would not hand over refugees to South Africa and that the kingdom would abide by United Nations conventions in this regard.

But Lesotho would expel more ANC members if it was in the interests of national security.

He said he did not know of any activists among the country's refugees and that his security personnel would inform him if any were found.

It was the first time Lekhanya had addressed journalists since he seized power in a military coup 10 days ago.

Asked about relations with the Soviet

bloc, Lekhanya said his government believed in maintaining relations with everyone with whom it found common ground.

"I believe in the whole international society and community," he said.

Asked if this meant that existing Soviet bloc embassies in Lesotho would remain for the time being, the general nodded.

Lesotho would also adhere to all treaties and UN conventions and protocols signed by the Jonathan government, but reserved the right to re-examine those treaties.

Lekhanya said the 57 ANC members who flew to Lusaka at the weekend had been evacuated for their own safety.

Asked about possible future evacuations and the criteria that would be used for determining those to be expelled, the Lekhanya said if people represented a threat to Lesotho's security "they will have to find some other place".

ANC spokesman in Lusaka Tom Sebina told *Business Day* the ANC hoped to hold talks with representatives of Lesotho's Military Council.

Apple Times

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Lekhanya speaks on position of ANC

MASERU. — More ANC members would be expelled from Lesotho if it was in the interests of national security, the country's new military ruler indicated yesterday.

But he also repeated previous statements that Lesotho would not hand over refugees to South Africa and that the kingdom would abide by United Nations conventions on refugees.

In his first press conference since taking power from Chief Leabua Jonathan, Major-General Metsing Lekhanya also said Lesotho would for the time being maintain existing ties with Soviet Bloc countries.

He said the 60 ANC members who flew to Lusaka at the weekend had been evacuated for their own safety and for reasons of national security.

Replying to a question on whether South Africa would have any say in the expulsion of ANC members, General Lekhanya said, "I cannot change the geographical position of Lesotho. We are surrounded by South Africa."

However, he added that any such calls would have to be discussed in talks with South Africa or any other country concerned, and that anyone demanding the expulsion of refugees must provide proof that it was for the safety and security of the country and people concerned.

He said his government sought reconciliation and good relations with all its neighbours and that he "believed in the whole international society and community". It also aimed at solving differences through negotiation — Sapa

ANC activists detained as Moshoeshoe takes over

MORE African National Congress activists were reported to have been detained in Lesotho yesterday.

ANC sources in Lusaka added last night that the organisation had not yet held discussions with the new rulers in Lesotho and "were not sure" whether discussions would take place in the near future.

The newly-established military council yesterday handed over executive and legislative power to King Moshoeshoe.

The hand-over was announced on Radio Lesotho yesterday morning, confirming speculation that coup leader Major-General Justin Lekhanya has no desire to exercise political power longer than necessary.

The king will rule with the advice of the military council. Moshoeshoe will appoint a council of ministers from "time to time".

ANC sources said they had more confidence in Moshoeshoe than they did in paramilitary leader Lekhanya.

The British government said yesterday it has dropped consideration of a request for material aid for Lesotho, because of the blockade of the border by SA,

Business Day Reporter

which had been made by deposed Chief Leabua Jonathan.

A spokesman at the British embassy in Cape Town said the request fell away because Chief Jonathan was deposed while the British government was still in the process of considering the request.

However, he hoped the border dispute would "sort itself out quickly now that a new regime has taken over the government of Lesotho".

An editorial in yesterday's *Times* of London said that "Chief Jonathan's calls for sanctions against South Africa have rebounded against him with all the force of a returning boomerang. President P W Botha and his government in Pretoria have proved to everyone else's satisfaction that sanctions can work".

In Gaborone yesterday, Lesotho refugees living in Botswana said there would be no change in government style because coup-leader Lekhanya had been "moulded by Chief Jonathan".

They said they did not foresee any radical political change.



● MOSHOESHOE



Maj-Gen METSING LEKHANYA

ST-22/76. (167)
By CAS ST LEGER

LESOTHO's new military ruler, Major-General Metsing Justin Lekhanya, has arrested three senior Ministers of the former Leabua Jonathan government.

And, in line with Lesotho's ruling Military Council's stated policy, a second batch of 50 South African refugees and their families — including ANC members — is to fly out of Lesotho to Tanzania next week.

The three top officials now in detention are former Minister of Information Mr Desmond Sixishe, who, like Chief Jonathan, was placed under house arrest after the military coup; former Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Vincent M Makhele; and former Minister of Co-operatives and Development Mr Francis Matholoane, described in Maseru as the "godfather" of the Youth League.

They have not yet been charged, but it is believed they may have to answer for alleged links with certain Eastern bloc envoys.

While Gen Lekhanya has pledged no witchhunt, a further major reshuffle of senior officials is expected soon.

In another dramatic move yesterday, the newly appointed Minister of Justice and

Ministers held as Lesotho clean-up continues

Prisons, Mr Bennett Khakepla, leader of the opposition Marematlou Freedom Party, was due to set free the first batch of political prisoners — two women and eight men — even before Lekhanya's promised general amnesty. The names of the 10 have not yet been released.

The refugees, detained at the refugee reception centre in Maseru on Friday, and now being screened before being flown out, include at least one alleged ANC leader, according to our Lesotho correspondent.

Custodian

He is a young advocate, University of Lesotho-trained Mr Mzimkulu Gwentshe, who has practised law in Maseru for three years and who is described as one of the custodians of ANC policy in Lesotho.

No others have been identified.

Gen Lekhanya has said his Government would continue to accept South African political refugees, but they would be transferred to other countries "for their own safety and the national security of Lesotho".

The arrangement to fly out the second batch of South African refugees follows the deportation to Zambia last weekend of 57 refugees.

Lesotho expels North Korean group

Argus Africa News Service

MASERU — Communist North Korean "technicians" have been expelled by Lesotho's new military government

The action this weekend was confirmed today by a spokesman for the North Korean Embassy here who said the "technicians" were ordered out on the instructions of the ruling Military Council

No reasons were given for the move

However, it is believed that the decision was taken because of

North Korea's close links with the Basotho National Party Youth League, some elements of which had been armed and trained by North Korea

Among the main reasons for the military coup in Lesotho was the tension between the Paramilitary Force under General Justin Lekhanya and now chairman of the Military Council, and the Youth League, as well as the Jonathan government's refusal to discipline and disarm league members

A section of the Youth League was also known to have been in-

involved with Colonel Sehlabo Sehlabo, the PMF officer who led a rebellion against General Lekhanya shortly before the coup

In talks between representatives of the Military Council and the South African Government in Cape Town last month, South Africa raised its "deep concern" at the large communist diplomatic presence in Maseru

As far as South Africa was concerned the Eastern bloc missions were staffed at levels well above those justified by diplomatic relations with Lesotho

3/2/86
SPARC
**Lesotho kicks
out Korean
technicians**

The Star's Africa
News Service

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MASERU — A group of North Korean "technicians" was expelled by Lesotho's new military government at the weekend.

This was confirmed today by a spokesman for the North Korean Embassy here, who said the "technicians" were ordered out of Lesotho on the instructions of the ruling Military Council. No reasons were given for the expulsion.

It is believed that the decision was taken because of North Korea's close links with the Basotho National Party Youth League, some elements of which had been armed and trained by North Korea.

One of the main reasons for the coup was the tension between the Paramilitary Force, under General Metsing Lekhanya, and the Youth League.

Lesotho 'to deport' 50 more SA refugees

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MASERU. — The new military government in Lesotho, despite a public pledge last week to remain a haven for refugees, has detained about 50 people and told them they are to be deported, relatives and diplomats said at the weekend.

They said the group of South African refugees, most of them supporters of the African National Congress (ANC), were picked up by soldiers at the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Maseru on Friday.

The refugees, many of them in Lesotho for years, were queuing to collect monthly subsistence allowances.

Last Saturday the government of Major-General Justin Lekhanya, who seized power on January 20, airlifted 57 refugees to Zambia.

It said the expulsions, apparently made at the insistence of Pretoria, were in the best interests and safety of the refugees.

South Africa, which surrounds Lesotho, immediately lifted a stringent security clamp on its borders which had caused commercial chaos, and which Lesotho officials called an "economic blockade".

At a swearing-in ceremony for the new Council of Ministers on Tuesday, Kg Moshoeshe II

— who has been given executive and legal powers by the military — declared: "Lesotho will remain the traditional and historical hospitable host of refugees from political persecution."

This pledge was repeated by the Planning Minister, Mr Michael Se-fali, at a conference in Harare on Thursday attended by nine Southern African states and representatives of more than

40 governments and world bodies helping development projects in the region.

General Lekhanya, however, told a news conference in Maseru on Tuesday that more refugees would be deported in the interests of Lesotho's national security.

Political sources said Pretoria had listed 87 people it wanted expelled as suspected ANC activists.

Relatives and diplomats said six of those detained on Friday were freed later that night, but told they and the others would be expelled, possibly early next week.

The group picked up on Friday included a photographer, a lawyer and the elderly wives of two ANC officials serving long prison terms in South Africa, diplomats said without identifying them. — Sapa-Reuter

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Post-coup Lesotho faces up to future

MASERU — Lesotho's coat-of-arms proudly proclaims the aspirations of the country's 1.5-million people — Khotso, Pula and Nala (Peace, Rain and Prosperity).



● LEKHANYA

The words have become a popular greeting in this tiny kingdom, but the chances of realising the three dreams seem as distant as they were before the January 20 military take-over which ended 20 years of iron-fisted government by Chief Leabua Jonathan.

The new, right-wing administration of Major-General Metsing Lekhanya will walk a tight-rope as it strives to make peace with SA, while at the same time trying to improve its international image.

Five days after the coup, Lekhanya deported 57 SA refugees in return for Pretoria lifting the crippling, three-week economic siege which fuelled divisions in the armed forces and led to Chief Jonathan's downfall.

Most of the expelled refugees were supporters of the ANC. The 48-year-old commander of Lesotho's 1 500-man paramilitary force has since rounded up 50 more refugees and told them they will be deported.

The moves have sent shock waves through an estimated 700 fugitives and angered most of black Africa.

One refugee in Maseru said: "Surely Lekhanya is aware that Azania will also soon be free. One wonders what this man will do then, because the peace he is seeking with the racist government can only be temporary."

Also among those deported on January 25 were followers of the Pan-Africanist Congress.

Political sources say only 140 refugees will be moved. Most of the 700 have taken Lesotho citizenship.

Remittances from workers abroad account for more than half

Lesotho's gross domestic product. About 140 000 citizens work in SA mines.

How to achieve prosperity under these conditions is difficult and most Basotho still lead a precarious existence, tilling the little land available in between the mountains and herding cattle and sheep.

As was shown by Pretoria's border clampdown, ostensibly imposed to prevent ANC guerrillas from entering SA from Lesotho, the kingdom is economically at the mercy of its neighbour. The restrictions caused widespread shortages and petrol had to be rationed.

Twenty years after independence from Britain, many Basotho are impoverished. Per capita income averages \$290 (about R660) and thousands of youths roam Maseru in search of jobs.

Chief Jonathan seized power in 1970, when his Basotho National Party appeared to be losing a general election, and went on to detain scores of people without trial. Many opposition leaders fled the country.

Political sources said that after the abortive poll, the main opposition Basutoland Congress Party formed an exiled military wing to fight Jonathan.

Only last December seven Basotho were gunned down in the south-eastern Qacha's Nek district by what the ousted government said were rebels aided by SA.

The only other poll Chief Jonathan tried to stage, last September, turned into a non-event after all opposition parties boycotted it, alleging it was rigged in favour of the ruling party.

Lesotho has been hit by a devastating drought that shows no signs of ending. Rains have again failed this year, the fifth in succession, and forced water rationing.

Only 140 000 tons of maize, the people's staple food, were harvested last season, hardly half the nation's normal needs, and government officials say substantial international aid will be needed to prevent possible famine — Sapa-
 Reuter

Lesotho's new rulers throw out 19 Koreans

MASERU—Lesotho's new military rulers expelled 19 North Korean technicians from the country at the weekend, a North Korean embassy spokesman said yesterday.

No reason had been given for the deportation of the men, who had worked on agricultural projects and had been involved in reconstructing Lesotho's main sports stadium here.

Diplomatic sources claimed Maj-Gen Justin Lekhanya expelled the North Koreans apparently at the instigation of South Africa but it is thought that the general believed the North Koreans were arming young members of Chief Jonathan's Basutholand National Party.

Diplomats said it was not clear if the new Government planned further moves against North Korea, or against the Soviet Union or China, which had opened embassies three years ago.

Political sources said Pretoria has demanded that the Eastern bloc mis-

sions be either closed or downgraded soon.

Lesotho's new rulers, who seized power on January 20, have already expelled 57 South African refugees to Zambia and detained 50 more.

Most of them are supporters of the African National Congress.

Meanwhile, the Justice Minister, Mr Bennett Khaketla, has announced the release from prison of 11 opposition members, jailed for long terms in the past three years by the ousted régime for plotting to topple it, or for supporting rebels.

The prisoners, including two women, were freed on Saturday. — (SapaReuter).

Wounded man

POLICE have released the identity of the policeman injured in a hand-grenade attack on a police armoured vehicle in Lamontville, Durban, at the weekend. He is Const C P Holme of Durban, who received slight shrapnel wounds in his left arm.

PETER WALLINGTON

THE African National Congress has not been officially informed that up to 50 of its supporters have been detained in Maseru and are apparently due to be deported to Lusaka.

ANC spokesman Tom Sebina said from Lusaka yesterday that attempts to confirm newspaper reports that about 50 SA refugees, most of them ANC supporters, had been detained at the office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees in Maseru last weekend had been unsuccessful.

"We did try to find out but received no reply from the Lesotho authorities. Nevertheless, we do expect them to inform us if they intend to deport more people" he said.

According to reports this week, Le-

ANC still in dark about 50 Lesotho detainees

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RUJ DAY

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sotho's new military government detained people at the weekend and told them they were to be deported. Fifty-seven people were deported to Lusaka two weeks ago.

Sebina said it would not make any difference to ANC activity in South Africa if all ANC personnel in SA's neighbouring states were expelled.

"ANC operatives, are inside the country, as we have always said, and not in the neighbouring states." He said SA pressure on neighbour-

ing states to expel ANC personnel had always been there, in different forms.

It had taken raids and the blockade — which culminated in last month's military coup — to attain that objective in Lesotho, Sebina said, and he expected SA to now turn its attention elsewhere.

He said there had already been "rumblings" about Botswana

□ The new government of Lesotho would continue to accept genuine SA refugees with the help of the interna-

BUSINESS DAY,

tional community, Military Council chairman Major-General Metsing Lekhanya said in Maseru yesterday.

He was speaking at a ceremony to welcome the United Nations Observer mission, sent by UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar to monitor the refugee situation in Lesotho since the killing of nine refugees last year.

The delegation, headed by Swede, Run Wrangdahl, arrived in the Maseru at the weekend.

Lekhanya said his government was making all efforts to normalise relations with SA.

But, in his first published criticism of SA since he assumed power on January 20, Lekhanya said apartheid was "totally unacceptable" to Lesotho. — Sapa-Reuter.

Meq. D. G. W.

PAC founder to be buried in Lesotho



The Star Bureau
STAR 6/2/86.

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LONDON — Mr Potlako Leballo, a Pan Africanist Congress founder who died here almost a month ago, will be buried in Lesotho shortly.

His body was flown to Johannesburg on Wednesday and then to Bloemfontein, from where his family will take it to Lesotho.

The funeral in his home town of Mafeteng had been delayed by the coup in Lesotho, said PAC colleague Mr Mike Tsolo.

Mr Leballo was the son of an Anglican clergyman. He served as an army transport driver during World War 2 and later qualified as a teacher.

He became one of the founding fathers of the PAC, later setting up the organisation's exile headquarters in Tanzania and winning it recognition from the United Nations and the Organisation of African Unity.

But, after instigating the expulsion of many PAC followers, Mr Leballo was ousted himself and lived in Ghana for some time before settling in London in 1983 with his two sons.

King recalls Lesotho exiles

MASERU — Lesotho's King Moshoe-
shoe has called for exiles to return home. ¹⁶⁷ who led the coup, heads the ruling military council, but analysts have said they expect to see the king become more involved.

The move appears to signal a general amnesty 18 days after a coup against former prime minister Leabua Jonathan.

The call indicates that the king, who was at odds with Jonathan, is emerging as a political leader.

Major-General Metsing Lekhanya,

Several hundred Basotho live in SA and other neighbouring states, with a few in Britain and the US.

Information Minister Tom Thatane denied reports that Lesotho had detained hundreds of suspected ANC supporters. — Sapa- AP.

Business Day 7/2/86

Lesotho grants general amnesty

DISPATCH
3/2/86
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MASERU — All Basotho political prisoners and citizens in exile for political reasons were granted amnesty yesterday by King Moshoeshoe II, acting on the advice of the military council of Lesotho, Radio Lesotho announced.

The announcement said this was in terms of the General Amnesty Order of 1986, which was now in force.

The amnesty is being granted to any citizen of Lesotho inside the country who has been convicted and sentenced for a political offence or was liable to prosecution for a political offence.

Lesotho citizens living in exile who were liable to prosecution for political reasons or who feared political persecution and wished to return home would also be granted amnesty.

The amnesty was granted on condition that the persons concerned complied with the laws of Lesotho — Sapa

Lesotho's political prisoners pardoned

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and sentenced for a political offence or was liable to prosecution for a political offence

Lesotho citizens living in exile who were liable to prosecution for political reasons or who feared political persecution and wished to return home would also be granted amnesty.

According to the General Amnesty Order, the amnesty was granted on condition that the persons concerned complied with the laws of Lesotho and that they surrendered any arms in their possession to the authorities. — Sapa.

BUSINESS DAY (167)
12/2/84
**Lesotho releases
bulk of SA exiles**

MASERU — Most of the 50 South African political refugees detained two weeks ago in preparation for their repatriation from Lesotho have been released, a reliable source said yesterday.

It is understood that 14 of the refugees were on the list of people told to leave the country.

The Lesotho government detained the refugees on January 31 for screening to determine if any of them were ANC activists on a list provided by the SA government.

The departure of those found to be on the list has not as yet been finalised because of problems in finding a second country of asylum, the source said. — Sapa

42 SA 'refugees' fly out of Lesotho

Argus Africa News Service

MASERU — A further 42 South Africans believed to be members or supporters of the ANC were flown out of Lesotho last night as the new military government continued its crackdown on the ANC

The 42 flew in a chartered Lesotho Airways aircraft to Lusaka. Most are believed to have been among the 50 South African refugees detained on January 31, reportedly for screening to determine whether any were on a list provided by the South African Government

SECOND GROUP

The group that left last night was the second to fly to Lusaka since the coup that ousted former Prime Minister Leabua Jonathan last month. A group of 60 left on January 25 in a chartered aircraft. On the same day 30 South African students left on a scheduled flight.

42 refugees quit Lesotho

15/2/82 The Star's Africa
News Service

MASERU — Another 42 South Africans, believed to be ANC members or supporters, left Maseru by air for Lusaka on Thursday as the military government's crackdown continues.

Most are believed to have been among the 50 South African refugees detained on January 31, reportedly to see if they were on a list provided by South Africa.

They are the second group to fly to Lusaka since the coup in Lesotho.

Lesotho has, however, said South African refugees were still welcome or could leave if they chose.

BUS DAY
18/2/86 (167)

Anonymous witness's 'life is endangered'

A FILE concerning treason-trial accused Sisa Njikelana had been among African National Congress records in Lesotho, the Maritzburg Supreme Court heard yesterday.

The witness may not be named.

Prosecutor Andre Oberholzer said there were substantial reasons for not revealing the witness's identity because lives might be endangered.

The witness also said a passport containing the photograph of another accused, Thozamile Gqweta, had been made out in the name of Richard Miti.

The witness had seen the passport in Lesotho at the "place" of a person named Kingdom Short, who was SA Congress of Trade Unions (Sactu) treasurer in Lesotho.

The witness had also seen Gqweta, who was the national president of the SA Allied Workers' Union, somewhere in SA.

The witness, who was giving evidence *in camera*, described having worked as a member of the ANC — for a person named Socks, in Lesotho — when Njikelana's file was seen. The witness "worked on" some of the files.

The witness worked under superiors, including Socks, in the Lesotho military machinery. This was a superior structure of various branches of Umkhonto we Sizwe, the ANC's military wing.

The witness said there were commandos of the OFS, Eastern Cape, Border and Natal military machinery.

All these sub-structures were known as the Lesotho Military Machinery.

The witness said that in addition to the ANC and Umkhonto we Sizwe, the SA Communist Party and Sactu were working in Lesotho.

"We were all under representatives and we used to see one another often. There was a chief representative of the ANC."

The witness described having gone for training in several African states. Mr Justice A J Milne ruled that some of these states should not be revealed as they could help to identify the witness.

The witness said that after two associates with ANC connections had been killed in a car-bomb explosion in Swaziland, the witness went to Lesotho "I realised there was no security in Swaziland, so I went to Lesotho."

The witness knew some of the people killed in an SA Defence Force raid in December 1982. The people had stayed and used houses, known as "Siberia" and "Moscow", in Maseru.

The witness attended the funeral of those killed in the raid. Among those present at the funeral were ANC president Oliver Tambo, Lesotho's King Moshoeshoe, former Lesotho Prime Minister Leabua Jonathan, and ANC members.

The witness underwent military training including reconnaissance, topography and the use of various arms.

The hearing continues. — Sapa

ws World News World News

LESOTHO LEADERS MEET ANC

SOWETAN
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19/2/86

LUSAKA — A delegation from Lesotho's new military government had talks in Lusaka with African National Congress representatives during a goodwill tour of southern African states, according to diplomatic sources here.

The sources said the delegation discussed the issue of South African refugees and future relations between the ANC and Lesotho

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Since former Prime Minister Leabua Jonathan's government was overthrown last month the government headed by Major General Justin Lekhanya has been evacuating ANC members and supporters in an apparent response to South African pressures

Immediately after the coup 50 South African refugees were detained, reportedly for screening to see whether any were on a list provided by the South African Government

Most of them are believed to have been among 42 refugees who were flown out of Lesotho to Lusaka on Feb-

February 13 Another 60 refugees were flown out earlier, on January 25.

SOWETAN Foreign Service



GEN LEKHANYA

In court over milk

NAIROBI — A stone-cutter from central Kenya has been charged in connection with a widespread rumour that the milk distributed at public schools contained contraceptive drugs.

Mr Githaga Kaiga of Nyeri was charged before a magistrate on Monday with behaving in a manner likely to cause a breach of

peace. He is accused of claiming that the government-run school milk programme was a scheme to reduce the population of the Kikuyu tribe, Kenya's largest ethnic group.

Mr Kaiga admitted having said the milk was bad but denied claiming it was being used to control population. — Sapa-AP.

World News • World News •

LESOTHO LEADERS MEET ANC

167

SOWETAN
19/2/86

LUSAKA — A delegation from Lesotho's new military government had talks in Lusaka with African National Congress representatives during a goodwill tour of southern African states, according to diplomatic sources here.

The sources said the delegation discussed the issue of South African refugees and future relations between the ANC and Lesotho

Since former Prime Minister Leabua Jonathan's government was overthrown last month the government headed by Major General Justin Lekhanya has been evacuating ANC members and supporters in an apparent response to South African pressures

Immediately after the coup 50 South African refugees were detained, reportedly for screening to see whether any were on a list provided by the South African Government

Most of them are believed to have been among 42 refugees who were flown out of Lesotho to Lusaka on Feb-

SOWETAN
Foreign
Service

ruary 13 Another 60 refugees were flown out earlier, on January 25



GEN LEKHANYA

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Lesotho Govt met ANC on refugee issue

The Star's Africa
News Service

LUSAKA — A delegation from Lesotho's new military government had talks in Lusaka with African National Congress (ANC) representatives during a goodwill tour of Southern African states, according to diplomatic sources here

The sources said the delegation discussed the issue of South African refugees and future relations between the ANC and Lesotho

Since former Prime Minister Leabua Jonathan's government was overthrown last month, the government headed by Major-General JM Lekhanya has evacuated ANC members and supporters in an apparent response to South African pressure

After the coup 50 South African refugees were detained, reportedly for screening to see whether any were on a list provided by the South African Government

Most of them are believed to have been among 42 refugees who were flown out of Lesotho to Lusaka on February 13

General Lekhanya's government has stated a policy of refusing to hand over any refugees to South Africa

LESOTHO WATER

Coming to the Rand

167

FIN MAIL
2/2/86

The R2 billion-plus Lesotho Highlands Water Scheme, which began life as the Oxbow Project 30 years ago, is about to go ahead. A water treaty between SA and Lesotho will be signed in mid-March, clearing the way for a massive boost to the construction supplies and engineering sectors.

The treaty, seen as the most significant act of co-operation between two neighbouring southern African states this century, will secure the PWV's water supply.

A draft of the treaty was handed to SA last week. It is now being discussed in Pretoria and final comment is due early next week. The treaty provides for the transfer of water to SA in perpetuity.

Agreement has been reached on all significant points except the final royalty to be paid by SA for the transfer of water direct from the mountain rivers of Lesotho to the industrial heartland of the Republic.

Delay is unlikely. The PWV faces crippling shortages of water. Regardless of an end to the drought, all the country's water resources will be fully committed by 2025.

The Department of Water Affairs is implementing bridging schemes to ensure the PWV's water supply until the Lesotho project comes on stream in 1995.

The first water from the project, to be built in phases, is scheduled to flow in 1995. The final stage should be completed in 2019.

A 30-month period of intensive design, survey and preparatory engineering work will get underway before the ink on the treaty is dry. Contractors will be commissioned to strengthen roads and bridges in Lesotho and the Free State to handle the delivery of massive loads of heavy equipment. Some R44m is already in hand to fund this stage — R20m from SA, R10m from EEC countries, R8,5m from the United Nations Development Programme and the balance of R5,5m has been raised by Lesotho.

But the main cost of the first phases — some R2 billion in 1983 prices — has yet to be raised.

Work will be put out to international tender, but South Africans should be well placed to pick up a good slice of the contracts.

Hans Pettenberger, SA's project representative in Lesotho, expects that roughly half of the work will finish up going to South African contractors, steelworks, cement companies, engineering firms and manufacturers in the PWV, largely because of their geographical advantage and local know-how.

Consultants, the Lahmeyer Consortium, estimates phase 1(a) will provide 3 045 unskilled jobs and 1 050 skilled jobs. Phase 1(b) should add another 1 030 unskilled and

530 skilled jobs — and Lesotho workers will be front runners.

It is expected that most of the big money will come from Europe, with the World Bank being the lead agency through the United Nations Development Programme. SA will guarantee all the loans. A financial consortium is to be set up to go round with the bucket while the planners, contractors and engineers do their work.

Lesotho's director for the project, Matzupa Sole, says he's confident funds will be forthcoming. "World bankers are already knocking at my door," he told the *FM*.

The project is designed to allow water to flow north out of Lesotho into the Ash River, and, through a series of tunnels and dams to the Vaal. Phase 1(a) will provide some 18 m³ of water a second to the Vaal. Eight years later, Phase 1(b) will add 10 m³ a second, and finally, Phases 2 and 3 will put the scheme at its planned maximum of 70 m³ a second.

The Lesotho scheme will be relatively cheap to operate. The feed into the dams and to the Vaal will be by gravity. An Orange-Vaal transfer would be expensive to operate, the water would have to be pumped hundreds of kilometres around Lesotho.

The operating benefits should be reflected in SA water accounts. Although by the time the project comes on-stream, the price of raw water supplied to the Rand Water Board from Lesotho will be 11 times that from existing sources, the cost of other transfer schemes would send the price soaring even

higher.

The outstanding item in the negotiations is the calculation of an inflation-linked royalty to Lesotho.

Lesotho wants a 50-50 share, which would put R40m-R50m (in 1983 terms) into its coffers every year during the operation of Phases 1(a) and 1(b) and eventually could benefit Lesotho to the tune of R200m a year. The haggling is not over the division, but whether certain other benefits which SA believes will accrue to Lesotho should be discounted from the royalty.

Sole sees the project as opening up a new era in good neighbourliness in southern Africa.

"It will be good for both countries. We will co-operate as equals. Lesotho will dilute its dependence on South Africa in that we will now be dependent on each other," he says.

There is no chance that Lesotho will turn off the tap. Not only would it be technically impossible, but international law gives SA undisputed title to the water which flows from the Lesotho mountains.

Another benefit for Lesotho is a hydroelectric generating scheme, which could save the country R20m in power imports from SA. ■

Ex-Ministers

are released

^{STH}
^{24/2/86}
MASERU — Lesotho's military rulers have freed from detention three former Ministers of the ousted civilian regime of Chief Leabua Jonathan, official Radio Lesotho reported yesterday

They are Mr Desmond Sixishe (former Information Minister), Mr Vincent Makhele (Foreign Affairs) and Mr Francis Matholoane (Co-operatives and Rural Development)

Also freed with them was Jonathan's former senior private secretary, Mr Ranthomeng Matete, the radio said — Reuter

LESOTHO - GENERAL

1987

It's New Year freedom for six

SIX PEOPLE detained by Lesotho's military rulers last week have been freed, political sources said this week.

They told Reuters the six comprised the country's former ambassador to China, Chaka Ntsane, and five youth followers of former Premier Chief Leabua Jonathan, who was toppled in a bloodless coup by rightwing military officers last January.

Ntsane, a former head of the civil service, was appointed to his diplomatic post last February but recalled and then

sacked six weeks ago. He is a son-in-law of Jonathan.

The six, detained last Wednesday, were freed this week, the sources said.

They added that Jonathan's five supporters had apparently been found with communications equipment which was authorised for use only by the country's armed forces.

Since the coup, the military rulers have purged the civil service and other state-assisted organisations of Jonathan's supporters and detained several others on unspecified charges. — Sapa

5/11/87 (167)

Lesotho products to escape American sanctions

The Star's Africa News Service

MASERU — Goods made in Lesotho, even using private South African capital, will not be affected by American sanctions against South Africa

Lesotho National Development Corporation managing director Mr Moletsane Monyake said yesterday that the United States Government had assured the corporation that Lesotho's production would be protected Mr Monyake had sought clarification on the effects of sanctions against South Africa

THIRD COUNTRIES

A statement from the American Embassy in Maseru said

"As a general rule imports of products of third countries transshipped through South Africa will not be prohibited when such products were merely transported, graded, packaged, re-packaged, containerised, marked or otherwise serviced in transit in South Africa

"Such products will be considered to be of a third country and not of South African origin This includes goods produced in third countries with private South African capital"

The statement added "Lesotho manufacturers' goods will be protected as long as export documentation, particularly the country of origin certification, show explicitly and conclusively that the goods were manufactured in Lesotho

"Any documentation concerning goods manufactured in Lesotho must specifically state that the country of origin is Lesotho"

MASERU — The Lesotho National Development Corporation (LNDC) has received US assurances that goods manufactured in Lesotho will be protected from sanctions measures against SA, provided export documentation shows explicitly and conclusively the goods were made in Lesotho

Managing director Moletsane Monyake said yesterday the assurances were given in a statement by the US Embassy in Maseru after inquiries by the LNDC.

The embassy said the US Treasury Department had recently issued guidance on the matter.

Lesotho gets US assurances on sanctions

gud DAF 7/1/87

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The statement said the regulations read: "Imports of products of third countries which were transshipped through South Africa will not be prohibited when such products were merely transported, graded, packaged, repackaged, containerised, marked or otherwise serviced in transit in South Africa."

Such products will be considered to be those of a third country, and not of South African origin. This includes goods produced in third countries with private South African capital.

Two exceptions to this general rule are

- Products of third countries which are substantially transformed in South Africa will be treated by customs officials as articles of South African origin
- Imports of third-country products trans-shipped through South Africa will be prohibited under the provision of the Act banning im-

ports of parastatal organisations if the products were grown, produced, manufactured or marketed by a South African parastatal organisation, or if the South African government or a parastatal organisation has any financial interest in the export sale of such products, beyond remuneration for the fair value of services performed in South Africa in connection with trans-shipment and exportation.

The US Department of Com-

merce has sent a message to the embassy in Maseru, saying that ensure that normal trade occur between the US and Lesotho, goods manufactured in Lesotho must properly certified and clearly labelled to indicate their origin

Lesotho industrialists have been assured that shipments to the US will not be held up at US ports customs inspectors are satisfied the goods are from Lesotho. Sapa.

7/1/87
STAR 167

Lesotho won't be hit by sanctions — US

MASERU — The United States Government has assured the Lesotho National Development Corporation (LNDC) that goods manufactured in Lesotho will be protected from sanctions measures directed against South Africa — as long as export documentation, particularly country of origin certification, shows explicitly that the goods were manufactured in Lesotho.

LNDC managing director Mr Moletsane Monyake announced today that this assurance was given in a statement released by the US Embassy in Maseru, after an inquiry by the LNDC.

The embassy said the United States Treasury Department had recently issued guidance on the matter.

REGULATIONS

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SERVICES

This does not include remuneration for the fair value of services performed in South Africa in connection with the transhipment and exportation of third-country goods.

The US Department of Commerce has sent a message to its embassy in Maseru, saying that in order to ensure that normal trade will occur between the United States and Lesotho in future, goods manufactured in Lesotho must be certified properly and labelled clearly to indicate their origin.

Lesotho industrialists have been assured that shipments from Lesotho to the United States would not be held up at US ports.

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the cheque believing it was valid
Mr Luther said he found several aspects of Mrs de Wet's evidence unlikely, but that she was entitled to the benefit of the doubt

Man guilty of defying political ban

The Star's Africa News Service

MASERU — In the first court case for contravention of the provision of Lesotho's military order banning all political activities, a man who wore colours of a political party was convicted in the Maseru Magistrate's Court on Tuesday

The resident magistrate of Maseru, Mr Letsela Maptla, convicted Tsepiso Mokoena (42) of Maseru for contravention of the suspension of Political Parties Order of 1986, which bans all political activity in Lesotho.

The magistrate sentenced Mokoena to six months' jail, but suspended the entire sentence for three years on condition that he was not found guilty of a similar offence within the period of suspension.

The court found that Mokoena, a Maseru nightwatchman, had walked past the Maseru Central Charge Office waving a knobkerrie with the colours of the Basuto-land Congress Party at the police

He was also wearing a woollen jersey with the colours of the party.

Trial for man accused of

from visit to Angc

By Rob Nuttal

The wife of a South African soldier being held prisoner in Angola returned to South Africa yesterday after a surprise visit to her husband, Captain Wynand du Toit in Luanda

Mrs Louwina du Toit (25) saw her husband twice, and was ecstatic on her return to Johannesburg yesterday.

Captain du Toit was captured during an operation in Northern Angola in May 1985

Protracted negotiations to secure his release have all failed but his wife yesterday said all she could do now was hope for his release.

"It was wonderful seeing him. He is a little thin but looking much better than the last time I saw him early last year."

Mrs du Toit's visit arranged by the South African government's international Red Cross acti-

diary. "My first visit to him was on September 21 and we were able to meet alone in the guest house for a few hours."

"I saw him again 30 minutes just before flying home."

Mrs du Toit with her two children, Klippies and Sheela, who she treated in Luanda. Her husband's name is not mentioned but she has to go

Child death: man admits rape, assault

CAPE TOWN — A man who pleaded guilty last week to a charge of murdering four-year-old Mitchell's Plain toddler Renee Isaacs admitted to rape and indecent assault yesterday

A Wynberg magistrate, Mr WB Monk, has entered pleas of not guilty on all three counts

The hearing was postponed to January 21 for the Attorney-General's decision.

In his 25-minute appearance yesterday, Mr Mogamat Ganief Salie (32) of Eastridge, who was not represented, said Renee followed him to the bush, where he had "lain on top of her"

"She collapsed, so I throttled her and pulled her through the bushes. Then I threw sand over her and went home"

Mr Monk said he

8 men to rer

PORT ELIZABETH None of the eight people convicted of murdering an elderly Kirkwood couple elected to give evidence in mitigation of sentence in the Port Elizabeth Supreme Court yesterday

Their refusal came despite being warned that expert opinion that they had acted under compulsion was invalid unless corroborated by factual evidence.

And in court yesterday, their crime was described by Mr JA D'Oliviera, Attorney-General for the Eastern Cape, as a pre-planned military-like operation by a se-

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Chief Jonathan in new court battle over arms

Argus SA/87
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**Argus Africa News Service
MASERU** — The former
Prime Minister of Lesotho,
Chief Leabua Jonathan, has
begun another legal battle
with Lesotho's military rul-
ers — this time over his
right to possess firearms

Chief Jonathan made an ur-
gent application in the Lesotho
High Court this week, seeking
an order to restrain the Com-
missioner of Police from dis-
possessing him of nine fire-
arms and 900 rounds of
ammunition

Among the rifles he pos-
sesses is an AK-47

The Acting Chief Justice, Mr
Justice Joseph Kheola, granted
a temporary interdict, subject
to conditions, restraining the
commissioner from dispossess-
ing Chief Jonathan of his fire-
arms

The court called on the Com-
missioner of Police to show
cause on January 19 why he
should not be restrained from
dispossessing Chief Jonathan of
his firearms. The commission-
er will also be called on to
show cause why he should not
renew Chief Jonathan's fire-
arms licences

In papers before the court,
Chief Jonathan said he re-
ceived a letter dated Novem-
ber 26 last year from the com-
missioner requesting that he
surrender his firearms licences
within 21 days, failing which he
would be prosecuted

Revoked

He had attempted to renew
the licences, but police head-
quarters told him that the li-
cences had been revoked

Chief Jonathan said that
since his Basuto National Par-
ty was ousted in the military-
led coup last year, members of
his party had been victims of
"all sorts of harassments"

He referred to the recent
murder of two of his former
Cabinet Ministers. Their assas-
sins are still at large

weepley PAW

Guns for Jonathan

FORMER Lesotho Prime Minister Chief Leabua Jonathan has been allowed to keep his AK47 and eight other guns

The Lesotho High Court granted a temporary interdict stopping police from seizing guns and ammunition from Jonathan, who was deposed last year by a military council

Jonathan applied for the interdict after the police asked him to surrender his firearm licence

Acting Chief Justice Joseph Kheola gave the police until January 19 to explain why they did not want to renew the licence

167 9/1/87

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Lesotho celebrates first coup anniversary

BUD DAI (167)
2011/87

MASERU — Soldiers maintained a high profile in Lesotho's capital yesterday as the nation prepared to celebrate the first anniversary of the coup d' état that toppled the Government of Chief Leabua Jonthan.

Residents said the army presence was

more visible than usual, and that the town seemed more tense

Lesotho's Head of State King Moshoeshe II was due to unfold the Kingdom's new flag at a private ceremony attended by the military rulers at his palace at midnight last night.

Man who avoided jail slain in Soweto

By Sam Mabe

An Angola-trained insurgent who, due to a technicality, escaped a 15-year jail sentence Bophuthatswana in 1980, was shot dead in Soweto on Monday.

Mr Wilford Sebonege Marwane (30), of Emndeni Extension, died when he was shot three times while standing outside his home.

His mother, Mrs Mavis Skhosana, said: "He was not shot in the dark. The time was 6.30 pm and he was standing outside at the gate. But nobody seems to have seen anything and nobody wants to say anything."

Mr Marwane made a legal history in 1980 when a 15-year jail sentence passed on him by a Bophuthatswana judge for terrorist activities was set aside by the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court in Bloemfontein

The judges found the conviction of Mr Marwane under the Terrorism Act of 1967 was in conflict with Bophuthatswana's Bill of Rights.

The court also found the Terrorism Act was not applicable in Bophuthatswana which was a sovereign state

Lesotho's ruler tells of new constitution

167
STMR 21/1/87

The Star's Africa News Service

MASERU — An advisory council will soon be formed to draft a new constitution for Lesotho, military ruler Major-General Metsing Lekhanya announced yesterday.

He was speaking at an Army Day to celebrate the first anniversary of the coup which overthrew the government of Chief Leabua Jonathan

He also announced a general amnesty

General Lekhanya said the advisory council would also deal with questions related to the country's budget

"We have to consider and exchange views with the entire nation over the size and the nature of representation, as well as the specific terms of reference in administration and development that this council shall provide advice on"

The army parade was attended by King Moshoeshoe II, Queen Mamohato and a crowd of about 20 000

The crowd ululated and applauded when the



Lesotho's Major-General Metsing Lekhanya celebrating first anniversary of the coup

new national flag, which had been hoisted on Monday night for the first time at the Royal Palace, was unfolded yesterday

General Lekhanya said relations between his government and the West had returned to normal and accused the for-

mer government of having "soured" those relations

On the subject of the Lesotho Highlands Water project, he announced that in the first phase of construction his government would invest about R50 million

Coup 'paved way for water project' 167

MASERU — Lesotho's military leadership said yesterday its coup d'état had enabled the country to sign the R1,4bn Highlands Water Project contract with SA

Ruling military council chairman Major-General Metsing Lekhanya made the link at the Army Day parade at the Pitso Stadium yesterday to celebrate the first anniversary of the coup that toppled

PATRICK BULGER

former Prime Minister Chief Leabua Jonathan.

"Fellow members of the Royal Lesotho Defence Force, we can take up arms if we have to. When we made possible the signing of this agreement, we did it so that Basotho could derive some benefit from it," he said

A year of Lesotho military rule

MASERU — One year ago officers of Lesotho's tiny paramilitary overthrew autocratic civilian Premier Chief Leabua Jonathan after 20 years of rule and ended a crippling confrontation with South Africa.

Southern Africa's first military coup was swift and virtually bloodless and the country's new rulers marked their first year in office with a parade and rally here, confident they were well in control.

But many people in Lesotho would rather forget the humiliating ease with which surrounding

SA triggered the coup, replacing Chief Jonathan for his belligerence towards Pretoria and refusal to expel anti-apartheid guerrillas with a crippling border clampdown

The clampdown, begun on January 1, brought road and rail traffic to a halt, cutting off nearly all this land-locked mountain kingdom's needs.

After three weeks of mounting tension, food, fuel, medicines and other goods were running out fast as the economy threatened to collapse.

But the burly Chief Jonathan, who held a rare Press conference the day

before the coup to announce he was in full command, defiantly proclaimed he would not succumb to South African pressure

Lesotho's new rulers, led by Army Commander Major-General Justin Lekhanya, quickly made conciliatory gestures towards the South African Government and within hours of the coup the border blockade was lifted

African diplomats here described Chief Jonathan's attitude as unrealistic, given that Lesotho — one of the world's poorest countries with a population of only 1.5 million — is virtually at

South Africa's mercy.

More than 90% of its imports come from South Africa and the earnings of 150 000 Sotho workers employed in the Republic's mines account for two-thirds of the gross national product.

Gen Lekhanya's Government has acted to appease the authorities in Pretoria and ensure the country's stability, expelling hundreds of members of the African National Congress guerrillas and signing a multi-billion rand joint water project.

But its first year in office has been marred by the deaths in detention of

some officers who opposed the coup and the unexplained murders of two former Ministers in the Jonathan Government

Gen Lekhanya has vowed that the military will return to their barracks as soon as politicians have shown they can run the country without resorting to violence, a reference to the arming of hundreds of youthful Jonathan followers.

But no indication has been given of when that could be and Western diplomats here feel a return to civilian government is a long way off. — Sapa-Reuters

Time for reconciliation in Lesotho

167 20/1/87 BD.

A year after seizing power and sweeping away the autocratic government of Premier Chief Leabua Jonathan, Lesotho's military rulers are campaigning to restore peace and unity to a nation once torn by political divisions

Almost daily, its military leader, Major-General Justin Lekhanya, and his five-man ruling council exhort the 1.5 million people of this mountain kingdom to bury the past and come to terms with a "new Lesotho"

The military accuse Chief Jonathan, who had held power since independence from Britain in 1966, of a string of unresolved political murders, of worsening political tension and pursuing a foreign policy they said was bound to cause Lesotho's economic collapse

Chief Jonathan refused to bow to demands by South Africa to expel members of the African National Congress (ANC)

Three weeks before the military takeover, Pretoria had responded by slapping a crippling economic siege on Leso-

Francis Mdlongwa in Maseru

Lawlessness must forever be banished from our midst in 1987. We shall not allow any violation of a person's life and property by an army commander to a wildly-cheering 20 000 crowd at a military parade

This was a clear reference to the killings last November of two of Chief Jonathan's former cabinet ministers together with their wives

A long-serving Western diplomat told Reuters "It would obviously help the government's image were those responsible for the killings to be found and brought to an open court for trial

"Otherwise an impression — a wrong one I believe — might be created that these military chaps are not very different to Jonathan's lot"

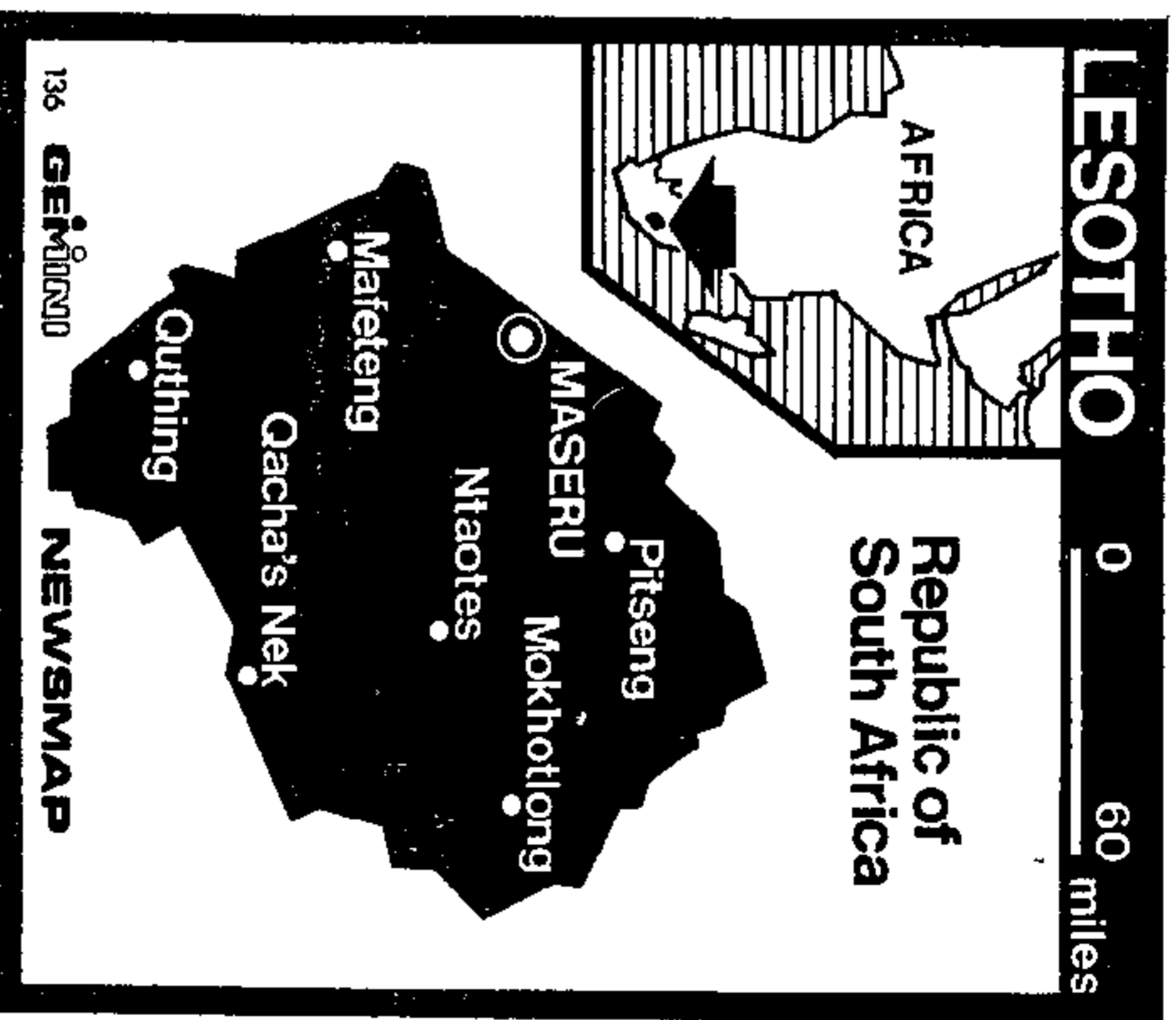
King Moshoeshe II, forced into exile during Chief Jonathan's stern rule but now the chief power broker, presided at the military parade and unveiled a new national flag he said symbolised peace, unity and prosperity

The green, blue and white flag bearing the nation's insignia in brown and yellow replaces the blue, green, red and white emblem adopted at independence but hauled down on government offices three weeks ago

"The military leaders are anxious that key symbols of Jonathan's era are buried as soon as possible if only to foster a new spirit of belonging they are preaching," commented an African envoy in the capital

A Maseru hotel owner added "It's not that they don't like the previous national flag but it was a replica of Jonathan's then ruling Basotholand National Party (BNP) People don't want a national symbol to be equated to a partisan interest"

The military has also renamed Maseru's airport and a major road which bore the former prime minister's name,



As well as campaigning for peace, Gen Lekhanya's government has shown a determination to tackle the seemingly intractable problems of economic development

More than 150 000 nationals of this impoverished country work in South Africa and bring in two thirds of Lesotho's gross national product

But since the coup several government-aided industries have been launched and farmers have been encouraged to grow staple maize, most of which has usually come from Zimbabwe, the United States and South Africa, officials said

There are plans to set up the first plant in Maseru to process Lesotho's wool and mohair which together with diamonds account for most of the nation's foreign exchange earnings

A long-delayed multi-billion-dollar accord authorising South Africa to draw water from Lesotho's northern rivers and which would earn Lesotho \$25 million annually was signed last October — Sapa-RNS.

GEN LEKHANYA . . . efforts to bring about political calm welcomed

tho which is encircled by and totally dependent economically on South Africa

The siege triggered Southern Africa's first coup last January 20, most people believe, and hundreds of ANC members were deported immediately after the coup

At celebrations mark-

ing the first anniversary of the bloodless coup, Gen Lekhanya again echoed the theme of reconciliation, declaring his government's commitment to "remove the scourge of wanton (political) murders, hatred and favouritism"

"I command the entire police force and the military that all acts of

who himself seized power in 1970 when it appeared that the opposition Basotholand Congress Party was about to win general elections He suspended the constitution and governed with a hand-picked Parliament

Most Maseru residents have welcomed Gen Lekhanya's efforts to

bring about political calm and end a reign of intimidation by youthful followers of Chief Jonathan

"We aren't afraid to move around the country any more. Previously you could be harassed and beaten up just for not having a BNP card. All this is in the past now," a hotel worker said

- New Year weekend. If so, (a) on what date, (b) what were the circumstances surrounding this incident and (c) what action was taken by (i) this gang and (ii) the South African Police on this occasion,
- (2) whether the members of this gang have been arrested, if so, when, if not, what progress has been made in the investigation of this matter?

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER

- (1) No
- (a) A national serviceman was wounded in the Alexandra Township on 1 January 1987. He is number 82274556BG Lance Corporal A W Pearce. He has already recovered totally and is not paralysed
- (b) Members of the South African Defence Force manned a routine roadblock in the Alexandra Township. Several shots were fired at these members from a nearby site during which Lance Corporal Pearce was wounded
- (c) (i) After the attack the persons escaped
- (ii) The South African Police conducted a follow-up operation and in the process shots were also fired at them. The attackers again escaped. Nobody was injured
- (2) No, but the investigation is proceeding

431 Mr A B WIDDMAN asked the Minister of Justice

- (1) Whether with reference to his reply to Question No 1 on 15 April 1986, the case concerning a retired magistrate who instituted a civil action

- against his Department for allegedly withholding promotion from him has been concluded, if not when is it anticipated that it will be concluded, if so, (a) when, (b) what was the outcome and (c) what were the circumstances surrounding this case,
- (2) whether any steps were taken departmentally as a result of this case, if so, (a) when, (b) against whom, (c) what steps and (d) why,
- (3) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE

- (1) Yes
- (a) June 1986
- (b) The plaintiff withdrew his claim
- (c) A civil action was instituted on 21 February 1984 because promotion was allegedly withheld from the plaintiff due to certain adverse remarks in reports concerning him. The plaintiff alleged that these remarks were not brought to his attention and that it was unjustified. He further alleged that he suffered damages to the amount of R125 282,92. In fact some of the adverse remarks had been expunged from the reports after an investigation in September 1983. As a result thereof the plaintiff's date of promotion has been back-dated. This resulted in an amount of R494,00 being due to him which amount was eventually paid over to him
- (2) No
- (3) A statement is not necessary

Citizen Force/Commandos

432 Mr A SAVAGE asked the Minister of Defence

- (1) What percentage of Citizen Force

- and Commando members called up to attend camps (a) applied for deferment in 1983, 1984 and 1985, respectively, and (b) (i) failed to report for service, and (ii) requested exemption from rendering service in townships, in each of these years,
- (2) what total number of persons called up for military service in 1983, 1984, 1985 and 1986, respectively, requested exemption on (a) religious and (b) other specified grounds?

The MINISTER OF DEFENCE

- (1) The honourable member is referred to the reply to section (2) and (3) of the written Question No 879 of 15 April 1986
- (2) The honourable member is referred to the reply to section (1) of the written Question No 879 of 15 April 1986

Water from Natal for Transvaal

434 Mr G B D McINTOSH asked the Minister of Water Affairs

- (a) How much water was obtained from Natal for use in the Transvaal in 1986, (b) what was the price charged per litre of water and (c) (i) who paid for this water and (ii) (aa) to whom and (bb) when was this money paid?

The MINISTER OF WATER AFFAIRS

- (a) 440 million cubic metres
- (b) The total cost for the State for the supply of Tugela River water, via the Sterkfontein Dam to the catchment area of the Vaal River, amounts to 0,015 cents per litre. In determining the Government water tariffs the total cost for providing all water supply components, as well as any other expenditure are taken into account, whereafter an average tariff for the supply of water is determined, which tariff presently amounts to 0,0065 cents per litre for domestic and indus-

trial use and 0,0011 cents per litre for agricultural use

- (c) (1) The following institutions to whom the water was supplied, paid for the water and it was then, where applicable, recovered from the consumers concerned

Rand Water Board
ESCOM
ISCOR
SASOL
OFS Goldfields Water Board
Western Transvaal Water Company
Municipality of Kimberley
Other small consumers
Irrigators

- (ii) (aa) The Department of Water Affairs

(bb) Throughout the year

Lesotho Highlands Water Project

435 Mr G B D McINTOSH asked the Minister of Water Affairs

- (1) When is it anticipated that the Lesotho Highlands Water Project will commence delivering water to the Republic.
- (2) whether a price has been determined in respect of water so delivered, if not, why not, if so, (a) what is the proposed price per litre and (b) on what basis was this price calculated?

The MINISTER OF WATER AFFAIRS

- (1) 1995
- (2) Yes
- (a) 0,07 cents per litre (provisionally)
- (b) The price was calculated on the December 1985 cost of the first phase of the Project and determined for a 15% interest rate in

accordance with the standard method for determining water tariffs of Government Water Schemes

Detainees: allowances

436 Mrs H SUZMAN asked the Minister of Law and Order

- (1) Whether he has received any representations for payment of allowances to detainees held under the Internal Security Act, No 74 of 1982, in 1986, if so, how many,
- (2) whether any of these persons were granted allowances, if not, why not, if so, how many,
- (3) whether any allowances are being paid to detainees, if so, (a) to whom and (b) what total amount had been so paid as at the latest specified date for which figures are available?

Handwritten: 2/3/2/87

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER

- (1) No
- (2) Fall away
- (3) No

Repatriated workers

437 Mrs H SUZMAN asked the Minister of Home Affairs

- (1) How many Black workers from (a) Zimbabwe (b) Lesotho, (c) Swaziland (d) Botswana and (e) Mozambique were repatriated in 1986,
- (2) how many of these workers in each category had been granted exemption from repatriation on the ground of long service as at the latest specified date for which figures are available?

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS

- (1) Separate statistics in respect of Black

HOA

workers who are removed, are not being kept. The total number of Black persons who were removed during 1986 are as follows

(a) Zimbabwe	2 543
(b) Lesotho	2 599
(c) Swaziland	674
(d) Botswana	7 289
(e) Mozambique	19 083
Total	32 188

Soweto

439 Mrs H SUZMAN asked the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning

- (1) How many housing schemes are at present being developed in Soweto by the (a) State and (b) private sector,
- (2) (a) when (i) were such schemes initiated and (ii) is it envisaged that they will be completed and (b) how many housing units are involved in each case,
- (3) whether any housing schemes for lower-income groups are under construction in Soweto, if so, (a) (i) how many and (ii) how many units are involved in each case and (b) in respect of what date is this information furnished?

The MINISTER OF CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING

- (1) (a) None
- (b) 4 schemes

- (2) (a) (i) 1985
- (ii) ±1988

(b) Dhlamini	226 units
Pimville	609 units
Orlando West	191 units
Protea	2 000 units

- (3) (a) (i) 3 self help schemes
- (ii) Soweto

Klipspruit	292 units (1987-01-31)
Phiri	601 units (1987-01-31)
Phiri	191 units (1987-01-31)

Family housing units

440 Mr P G SOAL asked the Minister of Education and Development Aid

- (1) (a) How many family housing units

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT AID

- (1) (a) (i) (ii) (iii)

Lebowa	Unknown	Unknown	105
Kwazulu	Unknown	Unknown	1 235
Gazankulu	Unknown	Unknown	524
South African Development Trust Land	Unknown	Unknown	633
(b) Lebowa	Unknown	Unknown	R2 492 000
Kwazulu	Unknown	Unknown	R4 245 000
Gazankulu	Unknown	Unknown	R2 312 000
South African Development Trust Land	Unknown	Unknown	R3 742 000

- (2) Yes It is not possible to give a completely accurate figure as the shortage of housing also depends on the actual demand. It is estimated that the shortage in terms of units is as follows

Lebowa	11 073	(3) (a) Yes
Owagwa	481	(b) Yes
Kwazulu	61 468	(c) No
KaNcwane	12 439	
KwaNdebele	1 314	
Gazankulu	4 255	
Total	161 344	

HOA

New Year weekend, if so, (a) on what date, (b) what were the circumstances surrounding this incident and (c) what action was taken by (1) this gang and (ii) the South African Police on this occasion,

- (2) whether the members of this gang have been arrested, if so, when, if not, what progress has been made in the investigation of this matter?

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER

- (1) No

(a) A national serviceman was wounded in the Alexandra Township on 1 January 1987. He is number 82274556BG. Lance Corporal A W Pearce. He has already recovered totally and is not paralysed.

(b) Members of the South African Defence Force manned a routine roadblock in the Alexandra Township. Several shots were fired at these members from a nearby site during which Lance Corporal Pearce was wounded.

(c) (i) After the attack the persons escaped

(ii) The South African Police conducted a follow-up operation and in the process shots were also fired at them. The attackers again escaped. Nobody was injured.

- (2) No, but the investigation is proceeding.

Retired magistrate

431 Mr A B WIDDMAN asked the Minister of Justice

- (1) Whether, with reference to his reply to Question No 1 on 15 April 1986, the case concerning a retired magistrate who instituted a civil action

against his Department for allegedly withholding promotion from him has been concluded, if not when is it anticipated that it will be concluded, if so, (a) when, (b) what was the outcome and (c) what were the circumstances surrounding this case,

- (2) whether any steps were taken departmentally as a result of this case, if so, (a) when, (b) against whom, (c) what steps and (d) why,

- (3) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE

- (1) Yes

(a) June 1986

(b) The plaintiff withdrew his claim.

(c) A civil action was instituted on 21 February 1984 because promotion was allegedly withheld from the plaintiff due to certain adverse remarks in reports concerning him. The plaintiff alleged that these remarks were not brought to his attention and that it was unjustified. He further alleged that he suffered damages to the amount of R125 282.92. In fact some of the adverse remarks had been expunged from the reports after an investigation in September 1983. As a result thereof the plaintiff's date of promotion has been back-dated. This resulted in an amount of R494.00 being due to him which amount was eventually paid over to him.

- (2) No

- (3) A statement is not necessary.

Citizen Force/Commandos

432 Mr A SAVAGE asked the Minister of Defence

- (1) What percentage of Citizen Force

and Commando members called up to attend camps (a) applied for deferment in 1983, 1984 and 1985, respectively, and (b) (i) failed to report for service, and (ii) requested exemption from rendering service in townships, in each of these years,

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- (ii) (aa) The Department of Water Affairs

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The MINISTER OF WATER AFFAIRS

- (1) 1995

- (2) Yes

(a) 0,07 cents per litre (provisionally)

(b) The price was calculated on the December 1985 cost of the first phase of the Project and determined for a 15% interest rate in

Person not drunk from it. 26/2/87

Appeal to general

Smetan (280) (167)
MASERU — Leaders of five political parties in Lesotho have appealed to the military government of Major General Metsing Lekhanya for all political parties in the country to be represented in the government's proposed advisory council, SABC news reports from Maseru.

In a statement released today the leaders of the five parties said the parliament of nominated members should be formed to prepare the country for the return to civilian rule and that a general election should be held within

twelve months

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'Kidnapped' refugee reappears in Lesotho

4/3/87
The Star's Africa News Service (167)

MASERU — A South African political refugee, Mr Simon Makhetha, who was reported to have been "kidnapped" by South African agents last year, has reappeared in Lesotho.

The Lesotho Government has now accused the foreign media of fabricating a story that Mr Makhetha had been murdered by a "South African death squad" in collaboration with the Lesotho authorities.

Radio Lesotho said yesterday Mr Makhetha had presented himself to the Lesotho police to report that he was alive and well. The Lesotho Government said while it rejoiced with

the Makhetha family over the news that the refugee was alive and well, it regretted a smear campaign had alleged he had been kidnapped and killed by a death squad in collaboration with the Lesotho Government.

This campaign had been based "on what now turns out to be an absolute lie", a government statement said.

Mr Makhetha disappeared from Maseru on July 23 last year and at the time it was alleged he had been carried away by force. It has been alleged Mr Makhetha has been held in South Africa and that he returned to Lesotho last month. Mr Makhetha could not be contacted for comment.

Lesotho firms get big break

167

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19/3/71

167

MASERU — Some 18 manufacturing and construction projects, linked to the Highlands water scheme and worth several million rand, have been identified for possible construction by Lesotho-based companies.

Lesotho National Development Corporation (LNDC) managing director Moletsane Monyake said reserving the projects for local firms would ensure the Lesotho economy derived the maximum benefit from the R4bn water scheme.

The LNDC, with the assistance of a consultant assigned by the UN Industrial Development Organisation, worked on the identification of manufacturing and service linkage from the giant project during the past three months.

The consultant is Dieter Schumacher, a German engineer who specialises in building and construction materials.

It is intended to promote the 18 possible projects as joint ventures between the LNDC, indigenous entrepreneurs and international companies — to ensure adherence to internationally-recognised standards.

Monyake said it was also intended to maximise local economic benefits. — Sapa.

18 ancillary projects to water scheme

The Star's Africa
News Service

MASERU — The Lesotho National Development Corporation has listed 18 ancillary projects, worth several million rands, which Lesotho-based companies can undertake in the construction of the R4 billion Lesotho Highlands water project

Managing director of the LNDC, Mr Moletsane Monyake, said his organisation had carried out a survey to identify suitable projects

The projects included the production of crushed stone and of cement and the manufacture of iron and steel products.

STAR 19/3/67

LESOTHO WATER

Coming on stream

Last week's announcement that the World Bank (WB) has granted a R15m loan for the initial costs of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project has finally kicked off phase one of the R5 billion scheme

When complete, the project will double the total yield of the Vaal River system, including recycled return flow, to 6 500m cubic metres of water a year. This will meet the needs of the PWV well into the 21st century

Cost of the first phase — due to be commissioned in 1995 — is projected at R1,5 billion at 1985 prices. The SA end, involving tunnels, canals and access roads, will be worth R250m to local contractors

Royalties to be paid by SA in terms of last October's treaty will be the equivalent of 21% of Lesotho's current GNP and will therefore benefit the small kingdom's economy substantially. Once the project is operational, Lesotho will receive a capital-related royalty of R23,4m a year. A further 4,1c/m³ will be paid to meet projected demand, as well as 2,05c/m³ for all water delivered in excess of the agreed demand projection. All royalty payments are subject to inflationary adjustment

Calculated over a repayment period of 15 years, SA water tariffs will have to increase, at current prices, by about 250% immediately after the scheme is commissioned — from a current 11,5 c m³ to 40,1 c m³. Alternatively, tariff increases will have to be phased in gradually

Apart from the WB loan, the European Economic Community's Economic Development Fund will contribute R35m to the R100m initial package. This will go to the Lesotho Highland Development Authority (LHDA) which is responsible for the Lesotho side of the project. The WB will be lead agency for Lesotho throughout the first phase with back-up from the EEC

A further R50m — for SA's Trans-Caledon Tunnel Authority — will be raised on the local capital market

Claus Triebel, Chief Engineer, Planning, of the Department of Water Affairs (DWA), says a very tight schedule is needed if phase one is to be commissioned as planned by January 1, 1995. The work schedule is:

- Access roads October 1987,
- Katse-Sentelina transfer tunnel and delivery tunnel January 1990,
- Katse dam April 1990,
- Tlhaka Dam August 1991,
- Hydropower plant January 1992,
- Sentelina dam October 1993, and
- Transmission lines October 1994

"LHDA is about to appoint consultants for the infrastructure development of phase one, while consultants for the hydro-power station will be appointed in May this year. Consultants for the design of the dams and the tunnels will be appointed later this year," Triebel tells the *FM*

Apart from the improved water supplies to

the PWV, regional centres and business sectors will also receive beneficial spin-offs

Nerve-centre for the importation of goods could be either Fouriesburg or Ficksburg — the final decision is pending. But Ficksburg looks set to become at least the major residential centre on the SA side. A priority will be the upgrading of heavy load road routes, which extend from Durban via Harismith and Bethlehem to the PWV, Fouriesburg and Caledonspoor. Bitumen surfaces have been recommended for the main routes to improve traction, ensure access and reduce maintenance

In Lesotho, the main upgrading of access roads will involve 162 km in the Moshale dam area, 173 km in the Mashai dam area, 160 km in the Katse dam area and 59 km in other parts of Lesotho

The value of these contracts — at 1985 prices — is estimated at R128m, while SA work on site is valued at another R15,8m

LHDA CE Masupha Sole says the project should also be seen as an opportunity to upgrade the skills of the Basotho — 4 000 jobs will be created for local inhabitants during the first phase alone. One of LHDA's functions will be to provide local inhabitants with professional and technical skills through bursaries and on-the-job training ■

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AKG 6/10/87



Chief Jonathan

Jonathan's body to be flown home for burial

The Argus Correspondent
JOHANNESBURG — Preparations are being made to fly the body of former Lesotho Prime Minister Leabua Jonathan, who died in Pretoria yesterday, home to Maseru for burial

Chief Jonathan, who ruled Lesotho for 20 years before he was toppled by a military coup in January last year, was 73

The South African Department of Foreign Affairs said he had flown from Lesotho on Friday, apparently with the idea of continuing to London for specialised treatment

A spokesman for the Little Company of Mary Hospital said Chief Jonathan started complaining of stomach pains six weeks ago. His condition on admission to the hospital was "poor"

GREAT-GRANDSON

Chief Jonathan was born in 1914 and was a great-grandson of Chief Moshoeshe I, founder of the Basotho nation. He received a rudimentary education at Christian mission schools and at the age of 19 left Lesotho to work for mining concerns in South Africa

He returned to Lesotho in 1937

In 1959 he formed the Basotholand National Party and became Lesotho's first Prime Minister in July 1965, 15 months before the tiny country gained independence from Britain

In 1970 Jonathan suspended the constitution when it appeared he would lose elections. He cracked down on opposition parties and established a paramilitary youth league. No further elections were held

In late 1985, South Africa alleged that Lesotho had become a major base for ANC guerrillas and imposed a blockade which drastically reduced the flow of goods over the border

Lesotho's Jonathan ruled his country with an iron fist

PRETORIA — The ousted prime minister of Lesotho, Chief Leabua Jonathan, who died in a Pretoria hospital on Sunday, had ruled his country without the help of ballot boxes for many years.

His iron-fisted rule came to an end in January 1986 when he was overthrown by Major-General Justin Lekhanya, commander of the country's paramilitary force. The change of government was greeted with popular acclaim.

Chief Jonathan seized power in 1970, when it appeared his Basutoland National Party (BNP) was losing to the opposition Basutoland Congress Party (BCP) in the only elections staged since independence from Britain in 1966.

He then ruled autocratically, but led Lesotho away from an early, close alliance with South Africa to a policy of political and critical independence of its encircling neighbour.

Although Lesotho is economically and militarily at the mercy of Pretoria, chief Jonathan resisted pressure during the mid-1980s to follow the example of Swaziland and Mozambique and sign a non-aggression pact with the white-ruled republic.

Chief Jonathan's downfall came as Pretoria showed just how strong its power over Lesotho is by staging a crippling economic siege which brought food and fuel shortages.

In an interview shortly after the coup he accused South Africa, along with Britain, West Germany and the United States, of playing a role in his overthrow.

One of the first acts of the new government was to expel 57 South African refugees, to which Pretoria responded by lifting the siege.

Ironically it was with the aid of South African funds that chief Jonathan won pre-independence elections in 1965. In September that year, four months after self-government and a year before independence, he was the first black leader to visit Pretoria and meet the then Prime Minister Hendrik Verwoerd.

It was also with South African support for the government's paramilitary force that he seized power during the 1970 poll, suspended the constitution, arrested opposition leaders, banned political parties and established rule by decree. "I have seized power, I admit it. I am not ashamed of it," he said at the time.

Opposition leader Ntsu Mokhehle claimed his BCP had won 33 of the 60 contested seats. But Chief Jonathan accused him of using violence, intimidation and ballot rigging.

Political prisoners were released during 1971 but Mr Mokhehle was kept under house arrest.

Chief Jonathan declared a return to parliamentary rule in 1973 with an 86-member interim national assembly of nominated members from all parties. The BCP split over the assembly, with one faction loyal to Mr Mokhehle refusing to take part.

In 1974, political unrest erupted in armed attacks on police stations. Mr Mokhehle fled to South Africa with other key BCP members as the government blamed it for the raids and launched a country-wide hunt for party supporters.

Chief Jonathan then accused the BCP's military wing, the Lesotho Liberation Army, of sporadic guerrilla attacks on officials and government targets and said the attacks were conducted from South Africa with help from Pretoria.

Relations with South Africa have been the central issue in Lesotho politics since King Moshoe-shoe I requested England's protection in 1868.

Chief Jonathan began to distance himself from Pretoria in the late 1970s after South Africa started to grant independence to its black homelands.

Lesotho refused to recognise Transkei, the first independent homeland, in 1976 and South Africa retaliated with the first of a series of intermittent restrictions and harassment at border posts.

Chief Jonathan increased his criticism of apartheid and expressed open support for African liberation movements following the Soweto uprisings in South Africa that year.

His outspoken criticism of South Africa, despite Lesotho's almost total economic reliance on the republic, brought the heavily-built Chief Jonathan publicity at the United Nations and increased Western aid and political support.

As relations with South Africa soured, border clashes increased. In December 1982, relations sank to their lowest level when South African troops swept into Maseru killing 42 civilians as they attacked dwellings they claimed were bases of the outlawed African National Congress (ANC).

In response to a South African demand, Lesotho later ordered all known black nationalist activists to leave. But periodic clampdowns on the border continued, restricting the flow of goods and tourists.

In 1983, emphasizing his distance from Pretoria and repudiating a fiercely anti-communist line he espoused in the 1960s, Chief Jonathan visited North Korea, China, Bulgaria, Romania and Yugoslavia.

This was followed by the establishment of Soviet, North Korean and Chinese embassies in Maseru and an immediate doubling of the country's previously all-Western diplomatic community.

He called the country's first general election in 15 years for September 1985, but the polls were cancelled when the opposition boycotted nomination courts. Chief Jonathan was returned unopposed.

The five small opposition parties charged they had not been allowed to inspect voters' rolls and said election procedures had been unfairly rigged in the government's favour.

But Chief Jonathan only lasted in power for another four months before being thrown out.

A practising member of the Catholic Church, Chief Jonathan was a farmer and soccer enthusiast. He was married to a member of the royal family, Paleho Molapo, and had seven children — Sapa-RNS.

10-16/14/87
W. M. G. (127)

Few laments in Pretoria for the last of the old regime

BY PATRICK LAURENCE

DEPOSED Lesotho prime minister Leabua Jonathan, who died this week of stomach cancer in a Johannesburg hospital, started his political career as a "moderate" but died as a "radical".

In his last years in power, Jonathan was condemned in Pretoria as a friend of the outlawed African National Congress and the man who allowed ANC guerrillas to operate from Lesotho.

But he was also the man who, in 1967, became the first leader of an independent black state to hold talks with a South African prime minister, anticipating by a few years the diplomatic forays of Hastings Banda of Malawi and Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia.

Had Jonathan died in the early 1970s, his death would have been lamented in Pretoria but probably celebrated in exile circles frequented by the ANC.

Aged 73 when he died, Jonathan, a great grandson of Moshoeshe I, was once an advocate of peaceful co-existence with South Africa, his caution earning him opprobrium as a puppet of South Africa's. His Basotho National Party is said to have owed its victory,

in part, in the 1965 pre-independence elections to financial assistance from South Africa.

After he cancelled the 1970 general election to avoid defeat by the more radical Basutoland Congress Party, led by his arch-enemy Ntsu Mokhele, Jonathan adopted an increasingly critical and, ultimately, openly hostile stance towards South Africa.

One reason was a bid to capture popular support in Lesotho by posing as an implacable opponent of apartheid. It was a stand which earned him hatred in Pretoria, if not love in Maseru. It led ultimately to his downfall when South Africa imposed a blockade on Lesotho in December 1985.

Jonathan is the fourth man of the old regime to die since the coup of January 1986 which brought General Justin Lekhanya and King Moshoeshe to power. Two of his ministers Desmond Sixshe and Vincent Makhele, were murdered late last year. Another, Sekhonyan, Maserubane, like Jonathan, died of natural causes.



General Justin Lekhanya - Still on top

The ultimate accolade that one can accord to instruments of reading is that, in the pursuit of knowledge, they form the purest pinnacle of cerebral stimulation. In addition to this metaphysical manifestation there are also some very nice pictures.

12/4/87 (167) C/Preso

Leabua - ANC tribute

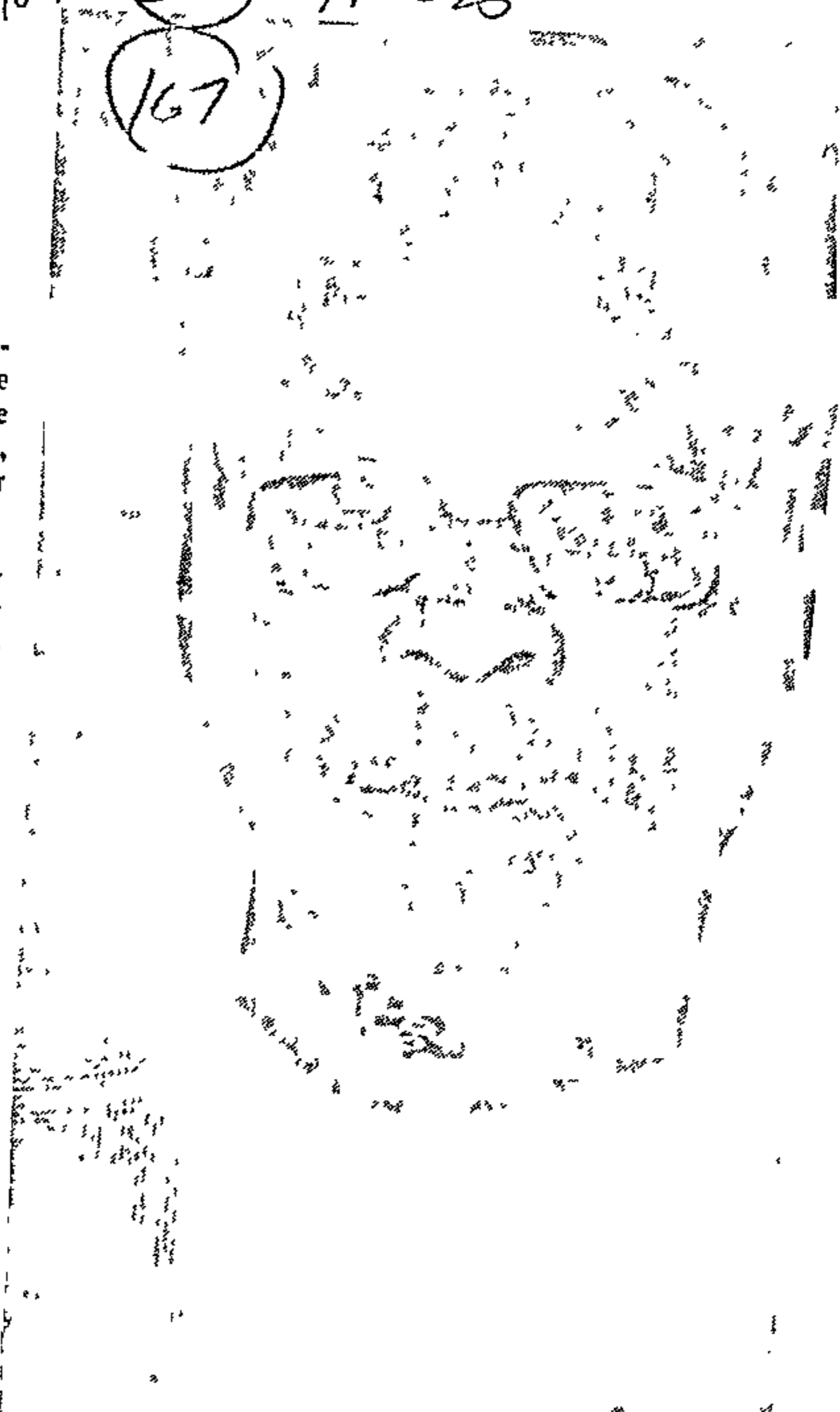
THE African National Congress this week paid tribute to ousted Lesotho Prime Minister Leabua Jonathan, who died of stomach cancer at the weekend.

In a statement issued in Lusaka, the ANC's headquarters described Jonathan, who died in a South African hospital, as a statesman who upheld the dignity of the African people.

Jonathan, who became Prime Minister when Lesotho won independence from Britain in 1966, was initially South Africa's ally but in later years became a vocal ANC supporter.

After he was ousted in a bloodless military coup in January 1986, Jonathan accused Pretoria of masterminding his downfall.

Sources close to the ANC said the organisation would be represented at Jonathan's funeral, the date of which has not yet been announced - Sapa.



Leabua Jonathan ... "upheld African dignity".

AFRICA has little use for democracy. And former Lesotho Prime Minister Chief Leabua Jonathan, who died aged 73 last Sunday in Pretoria of stomach cancer, was no democrat.

He will be buried near his Rakolo home next Saturday morning. Chief Jonathan held the reins of power in the mountain kingdom for 20 years — an aeon in Black African politics.

His rule has been described as autocratic, even tyrannical. While there were whispers of atrocities, Jonathan was no tyrant in African terms.

Rather he was a commanding and intelligent man who played a shrewd game of hopscotch between the Third World and the First; East and West, tribalism and capitalism.

Lesotho did not grow to riches under Chief Jonathan but it did enter the 20th century, with an active university and almost every child at school.

He even planned Lesotho's fledgling television station — albeit his motivation was said to be to counter SABC propaganda.

This great-grandson of Lesotho's founder and King, Moshoeshoe I, regarded himself as the true Basotho leader to the end — as if his deposition in the far-from-bloodless military coup of January 20 1986 was a rude interruption of his rule, not to be mentioned in polite circles.

Born in 1914, he was educated at mission schools.

He left Lesotho aged 19 and worked for a mining concern in South Africa.

Oath

In 1937 he returned to Lesotho, working in the administration of the Paramount Chieftancy. In 1951 he was appointed assessor to the Judicial Commissioner and in 1952 he entered politics.

In 1956 he was elected to Leribe district council and then selected as adviser to the regent, Paramount Chieftainess Mants'obo Seeiso.

He went to Britain the following year as a member of a delegation protesting to the Secretary of State for Commonwealth Relations, Lord Home, about the appointment of a South African as resident commissioner.

He asked the British Government to change his country's constitution and, in 1959, he formed the Basutoland National party.

In 1965 he was among a party which went to London

to seek responsible government for the kingdom.

Elections were held and the BNP won a majority. On July 5 1965, Jonathan was sworn in as Prime Minister.

In 1970, he seized power, forcing King Moshoeshoe II to spend eight months in exile in Holland. When the king returned, he was under oath to abstain from involving the monarchy in politics.

The Sunday Times was granted possibly the last formal interview the chief ever gave at his home in Rakolo, Leribe in November 1986.

The occasion was a sad one for the former leader. A few days before those who had played leading roles in his government had been assassinated on the Buffalo Pass mountainside.

Those who died were former Foreign Minister Vin-



Chief Jonathan ... "my people cry"

Jonathan was no democrat but he left his mark

By CAS ST LEGER

cent Makhele, his wife, and the former Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Desmond Sixishe.

Chief Jonathan himself had received a death threat.

"But I am not afraid," he told us, while being interviewed — not in his modern bungalow — but in his massive hut, almost a hall that he used as an audience room.

He was still supposed to be under some form of house arrest. Instead, we witnessed senior police officers paying homage to him.

"These bloody, inhuman murderers are killing women, that is unheard of in Lesotho's history. My people are crying," he said.

Revenge

"Those who died were all my men, all members of my party. The killings were for revenge and will have unfortunate repercussions," Chief Jonathan said.

Apart from the soldiers who died in the coup, others of his men had perished.

Colonel S Schlabo died in hospital of a suspected heart attack after being arrested in connection with his leadership of an army mutiny.

The former deputy army commander, Brigadier B M Ramotsekhoane, died in hospital after police questioning. Others died of "natural causes".

In June 1986, the ruling Military Council removed the name of the country's former Prime Minister from all public utilities.

Leabua Jonathan airport in Maseru was renamed Mejametalana Airport. Leabua Highway was renamed Mam South and Mam North.

Nevertheless, he has left his mark.

Lesotho Govt boycotts chief's burial

ARGUS
21/4/87
167

Argus Africa News Service

MASERU — The funeral of the former Prime Minister of Lesotho, Chief Leabua Jonathan, was boycotted by King Moshoeshoe II and most members of the ruling military council

The action by the king and council is seen as a deliberate snub to the late Prime Minister's family because of their criticism of the government.

Chief Jonathan's family also attacked the government in speeches at yesterday's service, claiming that thousands of Basotho had been intimidated from attending the funeral because of warnings on Lesotho Radio against "siding" with the Jonathan family

Relatives

The Minister of Finance, Mr ER Sekhonyana, the Minister of Tourism, Sport and Culture, Chief Mathealira Lechesa, and the Minister of State, Chief Patrick Molapo, attended the funeral. All are relatives of the chief.

About 5 000 people gathered for the burial on Chief Jonathan's farm in the northern Leribe district.

He died of stomach cancer in Pre-

torias on April 5, but his family believes his life could have been saved if he had travelled overseas for specialist treatment where doctors were available "such as those who helped President Ronald Reagan of the United States", said a member of the family during the funeral speeches which lasted for more than seven hours.

Chief Jonathan's brother, Chief Leloko Jonathan, told the crowd that the family had tried to obtain an international passport to enable Chief Jonathan to travel to London after his passport had been withdrawn.

"Great suffering"

He said that shortly before Chief Jonathan died a member of the military council had been approached "to exercise justice and compassion on a man who had gone through great suffering".

However, the councillor had said that the most that could be done for Chief Jonathan would be to issue him with a local passport, enabling him to travel as far as Pretoria, because he still had a court case pending on charges of possession of firearms.

The service was conducted by the Catholic Archbishop of Lesotho with two other bishops in attendance.

only in two ways — by increasing the

However, government has established a special committee under Re- ments

Water scheme tenders could be out by year-end

Business Day Reporter

TENDERS for some of the access roads related to the Lesotho Highlands Water Scheme could be out by year-end, industry sources say

Construction and civil engineering companies expect the scheme will provide a fillip for the industry, which has not seen any major infrastructural work for some time

Basil Read financial director Dave Wassung says contracts on the access roads alone are likely to total about R100m

"Basil Read is currently negotiating with US, French and German companies with a view to tendering for dam and tunnel work in consortium with overseas partners," Wassung says.

Tendering for more than 220km of tunnelling will be called for when the first phase of the scheme gets underway. This work should, in all probability, start early in 1989, he says

THE recovery rate for stolen cars smuggled into neighbouring states has improved

SAP Brigadier "Basie" Smit says "I think we have

made a lot of progress in negotiating with and getting help from officials of neighbouring states," says Smit

SA Insurance Association chairman Rodney Schneeberger says "A large number of cars are involved. Negotiations are underway with Swaziland and other neighbouring countries"

Amid the stepped-up efforts to re-

Stolen SA cars are being traced

NORMAN SHEPHERD

cover stolen SA cars, Swazi police station commander Assistant Superintendent Alfred Dlamini has been sentenced to five days' jail for contempt of court for ignoring a court order to hand over documents on cars allegedly stolen in SA

Number of summonses decreases

SOUTH AFRICANS are whittling away at the debt mountain built up during the past three years of recession. Economists claim this is apparent from the latest statistics released yesterday by Central Statistical Services

The number of summonses for debt for the three months to February decreased by 11,8% to 187 073. In the same period civil judgments for

GERALD REILLY

debt decreased by 15% to 92 344

The number of civil default and consent judgments served on business enterprises and private individuals fell by 3 782 in February to 34 075 compared with February 1986

The amounts involved decreased by R10,257m to R61,809m

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INSIDE BUSINESS DAY

maize price is slashed ... Page 2

Trade

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IN PRICE

Report: REVELATION NYOLA PIX: EVANS BROWNE



Unemployment and lack of housing is rife in Lesotho. Basotho men sleeping on the veranda of a shop in central Maseru.

Jonathan's family blames regime

By REVELATION NYOLA

THE Leleba Jonathan family, who buried the deposed Lesotho Prime Minister last Monday firmly believe that the kingdom's new military regime directly contributed to his sudden death on April 5.

The family this week gave a step-by-step account of the dramatic two-day events between cancer-inflicted Jonathan and (commander-in-Chief) Masing Lekhanya's military rulers. While Jonathan's family were gravely concerned about his fast deteriorating health after a Maseru doctor had diagnosed that he had cancer of the stomach, the military rulers were, conversely, deeply concerned that he might flee the country and avoid standing trial for alleged arms offences.

A Jonathan family representative who spoke to *City Press* in the late

THIS year Lesotho celebrates the 200th anniversary of the birth of the founder of the Basotho nation Moshoeshe I, who died in 1870.

In the time between Moshoeshe I's rule and death, Lesotho's subsequent independence in 1966, and the present very little progress has been made in the development of the country affectionately referred to by the Basotho as the "Kingdom in the Sky" and the "Switzerland of Africa."

Basotho themselves concede that if Moshoeshe suddenly appeared now he would have little difficulty in travelling through the country unguarded because so little has changed since his death about 117 years ago.

Dusty roads, mud-thatched single-room rondavels, blanket-clad Basotho men amlessly roaming the streets hoping to be invited for a free jwala, or a group of men spending the day playing a game of morabaraba — all are characteristics of life in Lesotho.

With a few exceptions —

former Prime Minister's lounge in the Leribe Jolonyama district, 70km from Maseru, said the former Lesotho leader only got to know about his cancer ailment last March 11, and that immediate arrangements were made for him to receive specialised treatment in the United Kingdom.

Arrangements were made for him to receive cancer treatment at St Mary's Orneological Unit in Pretoria, before he would fly to London the following day.

Arrangements were also made for a helicopter to fetch the ailing former statesman from Maseru.

Government authorities, however, said they could not allow the helicopter to fly into Lesotho.

Alternative arrangements were made for the helicopter to wait for Jonathan at Ficksburg on the Free State border.

Former Prime Minister's lounge in the Leribe Jolonyama district, 70km from Maseru, said the former Lesotho leader only got to know about his cancer ailment last March 11, and that immediate arrangements were made for him to receive specialised treatment in the United Kingdom.

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Like the Lesotho Sun and the Holiday Inns hotels — there have been few changes in the single street Maseru capital.

Lesotho, with a population of just over a million, is rated by the United Nations as one of the five least developed and poorest countries in the world.

Yet some 20 years ago, according to Organisation for African Unity statistics, Lesotho enjoyed one of the highest literacy rates on the continent.

Basotho were also thought to be the most politicised people in Africa. During the 1966 general elections seven political parties fielded candidates.

Ironically, political analysts believe that the political nature of Basotho largely contributed to the stagnation of the country's economic development.

They point out that many Mosotho spent their time talking and arguing politics instead of concentrating on the things that

government could do for Jonathan was to issue him with a local passport which would allow him to receive treatment in South Africa.

The chief was subsequently flown to Pretoria while an urgent application was made to the Lesotho High Court for the release of Jonathan's international passport.

However, by the time the application was upheld, and the passport released, Jonathan had died in a Pretoria hospital.

"We sincerely believed that Jonathan would not have died in Pretoria had the Lesotho authorities not behaved the way they did," said the spokesman.

Meanwhile, the army raided Jonathan's Kolyama residence last Friday, removing a large quantity of arms and ammunition.

These, according to the police list, included rifles, automatic pistols, AK 47 assault rifles and over 1 000 rounds of ammunition.

The arsenal, according to the army, was not registered under the kingdom's Internal Security Act of 1966.

According to the Jonathan family spokesman, the military government had refused to issue new licences for the arms last year, but that they were the legal

possessions of the late chief.

At the same time, 10 000 Basotho, most of whom were supporters of the National Party led by the late Chief Kolonyama to bury the toppled Lesotho Prime Minister.

Speaker after speaker praised Jonathan for his leadership over the last 20 years after the kingdom gained independence from Britain.

Basotho, apparently weary of political strife over the past two decades, are anxiously waiting to see what is in store for them with the Lekhanya regime.

For a long time this nation has been plunged into a quagmire by politicians whose actions did not necessarily align themselves with the national interests," said Lekhanya shortly after Jonathan was toppled.

The new military regime under Major-General Masing Lekhanya seems to have realised the economic problems facing Lesotho.

After engaging in "counter-productive politics" for two decades, the average Mosotho now seem to realise that there is a lot still to be achieved in their impoverished landlocked kingdom.

They have come to the simple realisation that politics does not improve their quality of life and that something more concrete needs to be done if their lot is to be improved.

The new military regime under Major-General Masing Lekhanya seems to have realised the economic problems facing Lesotho.

After engaging in "counter-productive politics" for two decades, the average Mosotho now seem to realise that there is a lot still to be achieved in their impoverished landlocked kingdom.



Catholic bishops walk in front of the car carrying Leleba Jonathan's coffin to the cemetery.

Leleba Jonathan's widow Manthahl during the funeral service.

Wine farms remain hooked on dop system

By WILFRED SCHÄRF

THE tot system on the wine farms of the Western Cape remains a widespread labour practice and has resulted in a dependent, docile and disorganized rural labour force

In spite of the 1963 prohibition on paying labourers in wine, the majority of farmers have continued to violate the law. Although the farmers pretend that the tot is given to labourers as a gift, it is understood by most of the labourers interviewed to be part of their rightful reward for labour.

The few who do not partake in the tot (usually the "bekeerders" — ie devout Christians) are usually paid a little more than the drinkers. Two points that underscore this perception are that overtime and weekend work is often "paid for" in liquor and that punishment of labourers who break the farmer's rules frequently involves a choice between pay deductions or the withdrawal of tot rights.

Many workers augment the tot by purchasing wine. This absorbs between 10% and 40% of their weekly wages. It has a profound impact not only on the labourers themselves, but also on their women, children and unborn children.

The daily intake of high amounts of liquor is virtually certain to have rendered a very high percentage of the rural working class dependent on or addicted to it for more than a century. This dependency virtually pre-determines the level of mental and emotional support the men or women can give their families. This alone would constitute a searing indictment of the tot system. But it is often accompanied by below-subsistence wages, coercive management and poor housing.

Strait-jacket

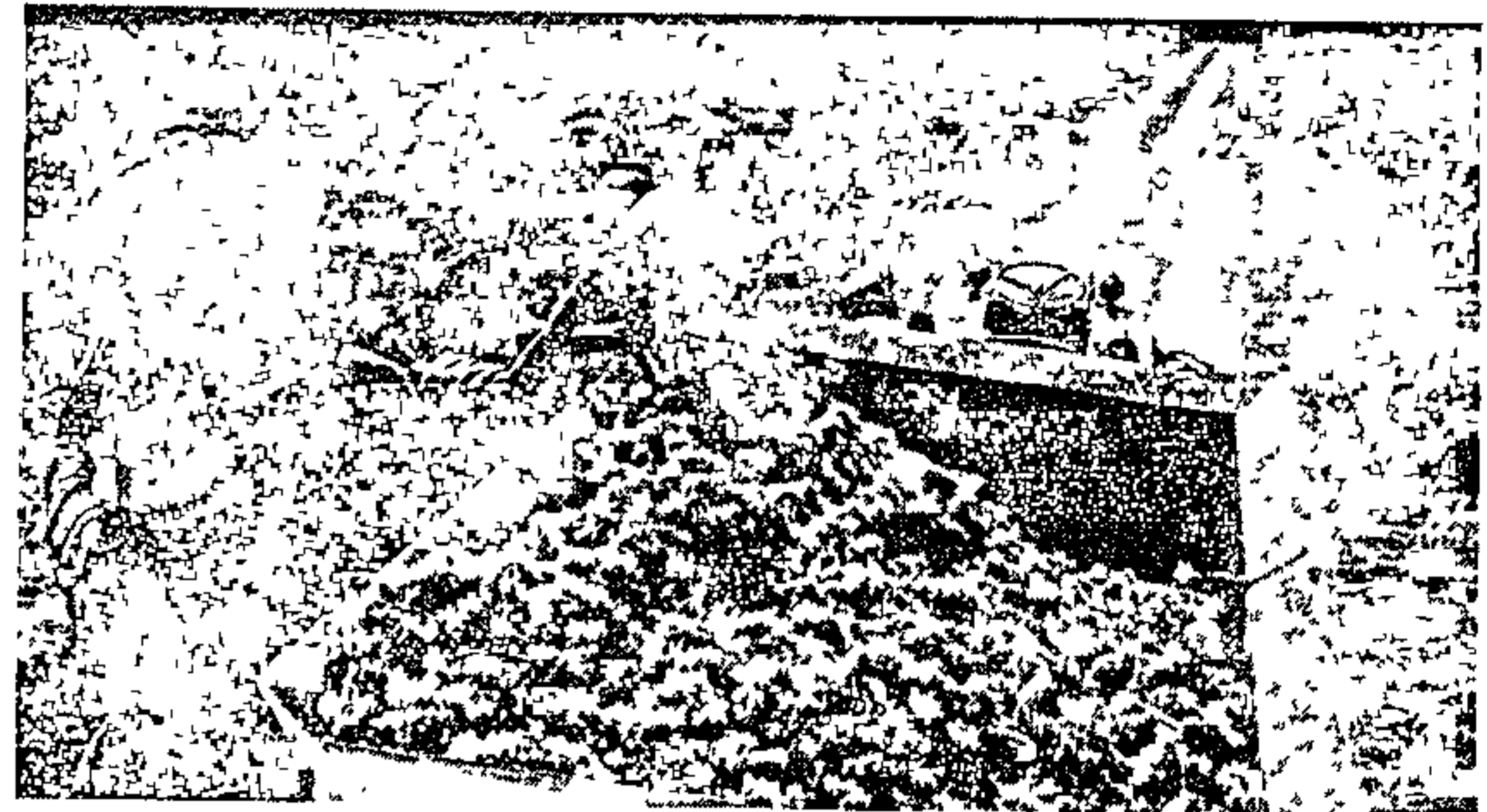
Farm labourers are virtually locked into a farm-related residential and employment strait-jacket. This has considerable implications for the degree of control the farmer can exercise over their behaviour.

There is a substantial difference between the wages of farm labourers and those of town or city workers. In 1984 the average wage paid on 18 farms surveyed in the Somerset West/Stellenbosch area was R26 a week for ordinary labourers, compared with the R45 minimum urban wage in the building industry (the most common alternative to farm labour). Farmers correctly argue that most farm labourers receive free housing, services such as water and occasional farm produce, in addition to wages.

It should be borne in mind, however, that other factors also influence the comparison. As is well known, farm labourers have barely any legislative protection. Service organizations are still waiting on the publication of a Manpower Commission report into labour legislation for farm workers, which was completed in 1984.

The monetary value of unemployment insurance, pension benefits, bonus payments and the lack of leave benefits all detrimentally influence the position of farm workers in comparison to city workers.

For the labourers themselves, the tot serves to mask the boredom of a dead-end working life. On most farms the scope for upward mobility is extremely limited. There is usually also very little acknowledgement for length of service.



Labourers on a Western Cape farm.

The ease with which free liquor is obtainable and the absence of other forms of recreation or endeavour, merely facilitate the slide into hopelessness and escapism.

The tot system does not need to be a central feature of labour relations. The changes in wine-farming techniques since the late 1970s demand a more skilled labour force, leading some of the more business-minded and liberally inclined farmers (currently estimated to constitute 15% to 20% of wine farmers) to move, or attempt to move, away from the tot system.

It deserves mention that over the years, even during the phase of labour shortages, there were some farmers (even wine farmers) who did not administer the tot, yet had no labour-supply problems.

Research over the past 10 years has shown a substantial diminishing of the amount of liquor dispensed, from the average of five tots and a bottle a day to a single "dop" during the day and a bottle at night. This lesser amount is still habit-forming, however, and is prolonging the destructive social effect of the tot on the farms. The number of farmers heeding recommendations from the Agricultural Union and the Rural Foundation to abolish the tot altogether seems to be growing. Not all of them have succeeded. One of the problems experienced during attempts to abolish the tot has been the labourers' refusal to work without it or leaving the farm when it isn't reintroduced.

'Upgrading'

Looking back over the history of the tot system from the perspective of the mid-1980s, one may be lulled into thinking that it is a mere rural aberration, rapidly disappearing. Yet a closer look shows that its impact on both the rural and urban population of the Western Cape is not limited to the past and present, but will continue to exert its influence well into the first decade of the 21st century.

The tot system has contributed to shaping a substantial percentage of the farm workers and their families. Many workers who drink would be shed from the farms by the process of mechanization and "upgrading". They will probably continue their drinking lifestyle in the townships and squatter areas of the cities.

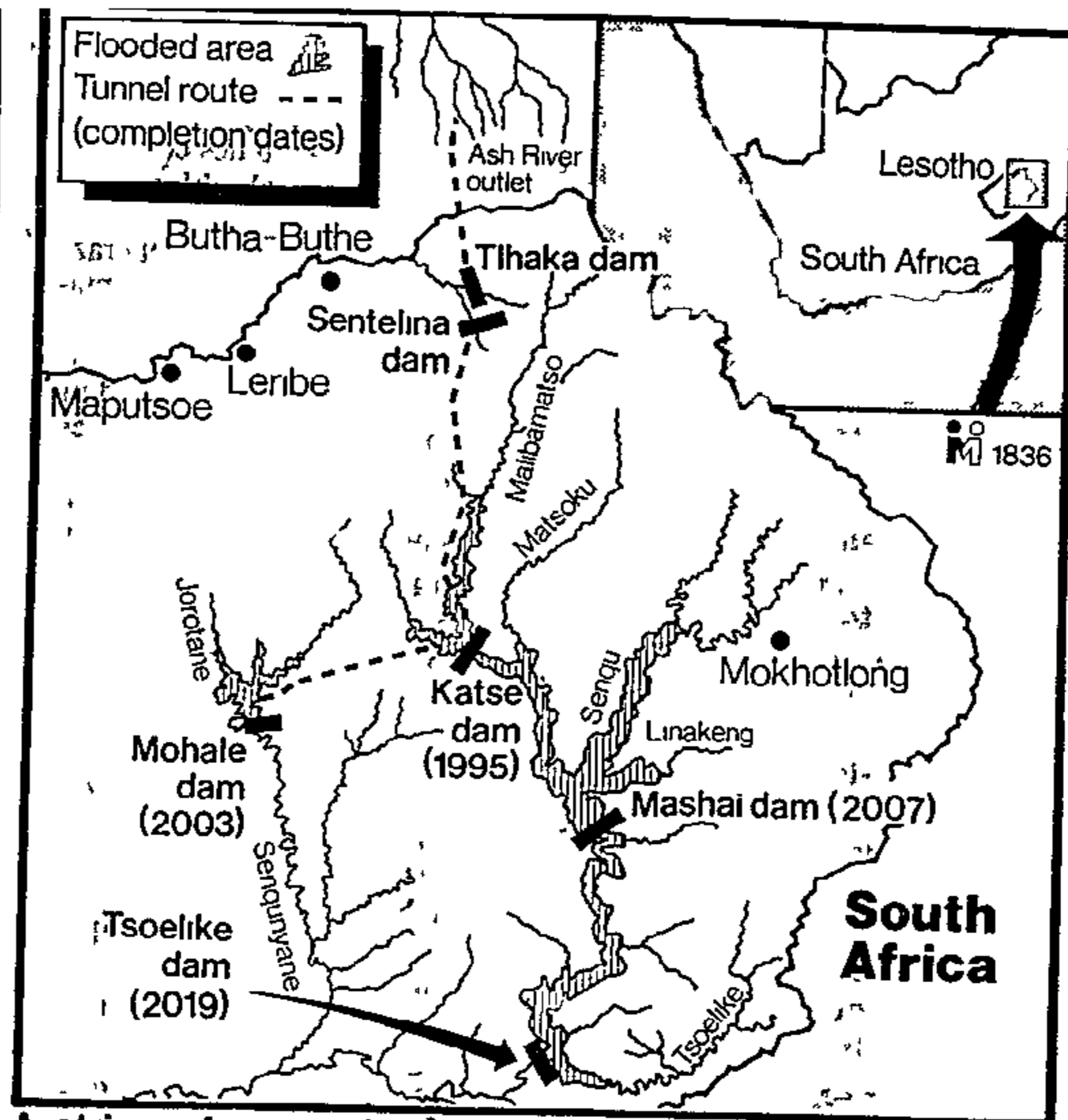
Farmers who tried to abolish the tot system have been disillusioned by the workers' response. They are, however, realizing now that it requires a comprehensive change of basic assumptions as well as a broad-ranging change in the entire lifestyle on the farms. Most importantly, it requires a revised attitude and approach to the labourers, an acknowledgement of their humanity and their potential ability to take responsibility in the work situation and their lives.

Farmers who have succeeded in detaching the labour force have done so by a broad spectrum of changes including

- The establishment of worker committees,
- Improving the physical environment, notably housing,
- Paying higher wages and no tot,
- Establishing recreational alternatives to drinking,
- Allowing social workers to perform their services among the labourer families,
- Arranging pension schemes, unemployment insurance and life insurance for the labourers and introducing a written labour contract,
- Encouraging acquisition of formal skills.

The achievement of these objectives may well be a considerable way off, and dependent on the fortunes of the liquor industry in the difficult economic conditions of the late 1980s. They require considerable capital investment, time and energy.

(Wilfred Schärf is a lecturer at the Institute for Criminology, UCT. This is an extract from a chapter which has been prepared as part of the follow-up work of the Carnegie Inquiry into poverty and development.)



A string of reservoirs outlines Lesotho's water scheme

Lesotho's watery exports

29/5-4/6/17 (167) W/Mail
 NOW that Lesotho has agreed after 30 years of negotiations to go ahead with the giant \$2-billion (about R4-billion) Highlands water scheme, authorities are considering how to deal with communities which will lose their residential, arable and grazing land.

Lesotho hopes to sell about 2 200 million cubic metres of water annually to South Africa starting when the first phase of the project is completed in 1995. Annual revenue of \$50-million (about R100-million) is expected.

The power plant will be near the town of Butha-Bethe near the South African border. It will initially generate about 250 million kilowatt hours of energy a year. This will increase to 800 million kilowatt hours a year for consumption throughout Lesotho by 2019.

But before all this can begin in 1989, about 15 800 people will have to be moved from their homes. New houses and means of living must be found for them.

Lesotho has a population of 1.6 million and only 340 000ha of arable land. An estimated 4 000ha of arable land and 18 700ha of grazing land will be lost, and 598 homes will disappear. The authorities say the standard of living of displaced persons "will be maintained or improved", but this may prove difficult.

Compensation schemes, alternative employment schemes and relocation schemes have all been considered. An average rural family makes its liv-

Work on the Lesotho Highlands water scheme gets underway early next year. But communities will lose their homes and land to the giant complex of dams and flood areas. By JOHNNY MASEKO

ing by cultivating fields and maintaining animals. The Highlands water scheme will force an end to that for many families.

Authorities say priority will be given to affected persons for employment on the project, but the type of jobs available will be a far cry from the life rural people are used to.

An official study found that "there is very little paid employment in the project area". The few paid positions include teachers, ministry of agriculture staff, road workers, court clerks, clinic and hospital staff and gazetted chiefs, who are paid monthly by the government for their administrative work in the villages.

The watershed of Lesotho has a rainfall rising to 190cm a year along the escarpment. In essence the Highlands project involves building a series of huge water reservoirs in the interior of the country. Thus at the close of the Nineties, water will prove the country's biggest asset. Jobs will increase as work on the project gets into full swing. For some, the price they pay will be their way of life. — Gemini News

Lesotho's opposition party leader arrested

MASERU — Lesotho's opposition United Democratic Party leader Charles Mofeli has been arrested by detectives in Maseru

Billay (161)
A member of the party, M S Nkuebe, said Mofeli was arrested on Friday —

after he presented a petition to King Moshoeshoe II calling on the monarch to restore democratic rule to Lesotho.

Nkuebe said no reasons for Mofeli's arrest were given by police — Sapa

CAPL Traits 15/6/87
SA man deported *167*

MASERU. — The former manager of a large supermarket in Maseru, Mr Graham Snyman, has been deported from Lesotho. Radio Lesotho announced on Saturday morning that Mr Snyman was deported last week, following an altercation between the bookkeeper of the supermarket and a member of the staff of the Lesotho royal family. The radio said Mr Snyman used insulting language about the Basotho royal family. His work permit was cancelled immediately and he was ordered to leave the country forthwith.

By CAS St LEGER

LESOTHO is waking up from its political coma — 18 months after the military coup that unseated the late Leabua Jonathan.

Last month, a member of the ruling Military Council flew to Kinshasa as a first step towards setting up diplomatic and air links between Lesotho and Zaire.

And last week the first South African trade representative, Mr Gemus Geldenhuys, took up office in Maseru.

For the first time, a sense of normality has returned to the streets of the capital, Maseru.

Projects which were on ice are back on the drawing-boards.

Commerce and industry — bustling and

perhaps busier than at any time in the mountain kingdom's history — is gearing itself up for the boom predicted as a spinoff of the R4-billion Highlands water project.

The gross national product was worth R1 000-million in 1985. Lesotho's earnings from the sale of water when the project is fully operational in 30 years' time has been estimated at an initial R120-million a year.

But in a country where 140 000 of the total population of 1,6-million work in South African mines, where their wages account for over half of Lesotho's gross national product and where, 21 years after independence, per-capita annual incomes were only R690, the Highlands water project is of far greater significance. Much of the migrant labour force will find jobs at home.

Eighteen ancillary projects worth millions of rands, ranging from supply of crushed stone to manufacture of iron and steel products, have been identified.

Money is pouring into the water project's coffers — R13-million for the power station, R50-million for design work, R100-million for roads — and some is finding its way into Basotho pockets.

The final scheme will include six major dams, several smaller dams, 240km of tunnels, 288km of new access roads and 263km of upgraded existing roads.

Major roads near the future scheme have already undergone improvement; better roads and the vast expanses of water will

boost the lagging tourism industry.

That's the plus side.

The project will mean the end of a rural lifestyle for 16 000 Basotho whose homes will be under water. Lesotho has only 340 000 arable hectares; 4 000ha of this will be lost, as will be 18 700ha of grazing land.

There may be little benefit bar first crack at available jobs and some compensation.

The Lesotho Highlands Water Scheme Authority was formed after the water treaty with South Africa was signed last October — nine months after the coup and 30 years after the scheme was first conceived. Military Council chairman Major General Metsing Lekhanya proudly informed his country.

In the meantime, party politics is still "suspended".

It was this order of which former United

Democratic Party leader Mr Charles Mofell fell foul.

Mr Mofell was detained for a week of interrogation under the Internal Security Act after he had sent a petition to King Moshoeshoe II and "the Chairman" (as Maj-Gen Lekhanya is known in Lesotho) asking for a return to parliamentary democracy.

He was released last week after his wife filed a High Court applica-

tion challenging his detention without trial.

For at least the past year, Lesotho sources have claimed Maj-Gen Lekhanya is merely a puppet head and there are signs the country is increasingly under the control of two brothers, cousins of the king — Colonel Thaahe Letsie, 47, and Colonel Joshua Sekhobe Letsie, 39, the men said to have master-minded the coup.

There is still strong support for the Basotho National Party of the late Leabua Jonathan. And Maseru abounds with rumours that the former leader's death was not natural but the result of poisoning.

Sources close to his family say he showed no signs of the stomach cancer that took his life. They say no family member has seen the autopsy report and that his body was returned from Bloemfontein to Lesotho only the day before his burial on April 18.

A politically informed source said "quiet concern" was being expressed in Maseru about the rightwing swing in South Africa.

"The wheel of Lesotho politics is on the turn again," he said.

**WILL WATER
WASH AWAY
MOUNTAIN
KINGDOM'S
TROUBLES?**

Small firms must close

A FEW foreigners have closed small businesses in Lesotho since the government said in January all small undertakings should be owned by locals

But just as many foreigners plan to form large enterprises or set up other forms of industry, a Lesotho Trade and Industry Department official said yesterday

She said most licences for small foreign-owned businesses had expired, but government had not yet acted to close them down

The move was aimed at encouraging foreigners to invest in large industries instead of competing with locals

SAPA reports the Lesotho Chamber of Commerce and Industry resolved a law should be promulgated to protect infant industries

Chairman of the Lesotho Military Council and Council of Ministers Maj-Gen Metsing Lekhanya, said on January 20 that foreigners should wind up their small businesses by June 30, or engage in heavy industries in Lesotho

3/7/87
B/D

16

CAP-Trip 6/7/87
**'Trespassing' labourer
ordered to leave farm**

JOHANNESBURG. — A 60-year-old farm labourer and father of eight children, Mr Witbooi Kubheka, was found guilty last week of trespassing on a farm in the Eastern Transvaal. He was born and raised on the farm.

Mr Kubheka was also ordered to leave the farm, City Press reported yesterday.

Mr Kubheka appeared last week before magistrate Mr M J Prinsloo at the Diekiesdorp police station.

The station commander of the police station, Sergeant Dawid Buckle, prosecuted. The case was adjourned to the following day and later transferred to Wakkerstroom Magistrate's Court, where Mr Prinsloo found him guilty.

The temporary owner of the farm, Mr Pieter Pienaar, told the court he had ordered Mr Kubheka to leave his farm on three occasions, but that he had refused, City Press reported.

Mr Pienaar said he wanted Mr Kubheka to leave the farm because he refused to work for him. Mr Kubheka told the court that he was old and sick and had sent his three sons to work for Mr Pienaar.

Mr Pienaar said he sent the three away because they often visited Soweto and he did not trust them.

CAP-Trip 6/7/87
**Lesotho, SA
swap reps**

MASERU. — Lesotho and South Africa have agreed to exchange resident representatives, opening a new chapter in relations strained by mutual hostility before the 1986 military takeover in Maseru.

Pretoria opened a trade mission in the Lesotho capital, Maseru, on June 1 after the two states signed a pact last April to normalize relations and exchange envoys.

"I can say without hesitation that this represents an improved relationship between our countries," South Africa's trade representative, Mr Ghemus J J Geldenhuis, told reporters. — Sapa-Reuter

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167 Sweetm 10/7/87

MASERU — Lesotho's political future remains uncertain after 17 months of military rule

The soldiers, who seized power on January 20 last year promising civil rule as soon as peace was restored, appear not yet ready to go back to the barracks

The five-man ruling military council led by Major-General Justin Lekhanya, has banned all political party activity but pressure for parliamentary government is beginning to build up

Lekhanya, the minister of defence and internal security held separate meetings with leaders of the kingdom's seven political parties between July and August and indicated he planned an all-party conference, political sources said

They said that in March this year the military government invited suggestions on formation of a national advisory council to guide the southern African State back to constitutional government

The proposed council was rejected by five parties — the United Democratic Party (UDP), Basotho Congress Party, Merematlou (United) Freedom Party National Independent Party and Basotho Democratic Alliance — a loose grouping called "The Big Five", the sources said

The alliance, formed in 1985 to oppose the prime minister Chief Leabua Jonathan, called instead for a national reconciliation government, including the military, to run the country for at least 12 months before general elections

"Ever since, nothing has been heard from the military regarding a return to civilian rule," UDP leader Mr Charles Mofeli said

Ban

"The people are totally satisfied with what the army has done but they are now yearning for parliamentary government," he added

Last month, Mr Mofeli became the first political leader to defy the ban on political activity. He presented an open petition to King Moshoeshe II and the military council, calling for normal political activity and parliamentary rule under the 1966 independence constitution

He was detained in solitary confinement for seven days for making the demands

The military took power saying they

wanted to end killings by political gangs loyal to Chief Jonathan, who died last April

In his petition, Mr

Mofeli wrote "If the original promise that the army would return to the barracks as soon as peace was restored is still valid, why not fulfil it in view of the fact that for 15 months peace abounds in the country?"



JUSTIN Lekhanya . . . plans all-party indaba



KING Moshoeshe . . . petitioned.

The future of Lesotho is still uncertain

FOCUS

SAPA-REUTER

would be a forum to discuss a future government system

The tiny kingdom, which is completely surrounded by South Africa, is passing through an uncertain period with no sign of movement towards Westminster-type parliamentary rule demanded by civilian politicians

"There doesn't appear to be any serious opposition to the regime but how long it will last nobody knows," the diplomat said

The priest said "There is no more enthusiasm over the coup. People are now waiting to see what they (military rulers) will do"

"These councils are alien to what we have experienced since independence," Mr Mofeli said

A Roman Catholic priest, who has lived in Lesotho for 36 years, also denounced the proposed government system which has not been fully defined

"In my opinion, it's a Utopia to go back to the chiefs. Since 1940 the chiefs have lost their power. Many senior chiefs are drunkards and the people have lost confidence in them," he said, asking not to be identified

Elections

Meanwhile, the government has introduced a home-made brand of democracy based on the village system. Elections have been held to choose village development committees and other polls are planned to elect district and ward development committees and, finally, a national council.

A Western diplomat said political parties, barred from these elections, were infiltrating candidates disguised as politically neutral contestants.

The diplomat said the military rulers wanted to prevent political party representation on the national council, expected to include elected and nominated representatives of teachers, churches, farmers and other interest groups.

System

"They are very sensitive to political activity of any form. They see political parties as being the cause of all the problems Lesotho has had in the past," he added.

Government sources said the national council

Lesotho's political future remains uncertain after 17 months of military rule

The soldiers, who seized power on January 20 last year promising civil rule as soon as peace was restored, appear not yet ready to go back to the barracks

The five-man ruling military council, led by Major-General Justin Lekhanya, has banned all political party activity but pressure for parliamentary government is beginning to build up

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They said that in March this year the military government invited suggestions on formation of a national advisory council to guide the country back to constitutional government

The proposed council was rejected by five parties, the United Democratic Party (UDP), Ba-

Back to politics Call to Lesotho

By TONIC SAKAIKE: Maseru

sotho Congress Party, Meremation (United) Freedom Party, National Independent Democratic Alliance, a loose grouping called "The Big Five".

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ing for parliamentary government," he added

Last month, Mr Mofeli became the first political leader to defy the ban on political activity

He presented an open petition to King, Moshoeoche II and the military council, calling for normal political activity and parliamentary rule under the 1966 independence constitution

He was detained in solitary confinement for seven days for making the demands

The military took power saying killings by political gangs loyal to Chief Jonathan, who died last April

In his petition, Mr Mo-

feh wrote "If the original promise that the army would return to the barracks as soon as peace was restored is still valid, why not fulfil it in view of the fact that for 15 months peace abounds in the country?"

Meanwhile, the government has introduced a home-made brand of democracy based on the village Elections have been held to choose village development committees and other polls are planned to elect district and ward development committees and, finally, a national council

A Western diplomat said political parties, barred from these elections, were infiltrating

candidates disguised as politically neutral contestants.

"These councils are alien to what we have experienced since independence," Mr Mofeli said

A Catholic priest, who has lived in Lesotho for 36 years, also denounced the proposed system government which has not been fully defined

"In my opinion, it's a Utopia to go back to the chiefs. Since 1940 the chiefs have lost their power. Many senior chiefs are drunkards and the people have lost confidence in them," he said, asking not to be identified

The diplomat said the military rulers wanted to prevent political party representation on

the national council, expected to include elected and nominated representatives of churches, teachers, farmers and other interest groups

"They are sensitive to political activity of any form. They see political parties as being the cause of all the problems Lesotho has had in the past," he added

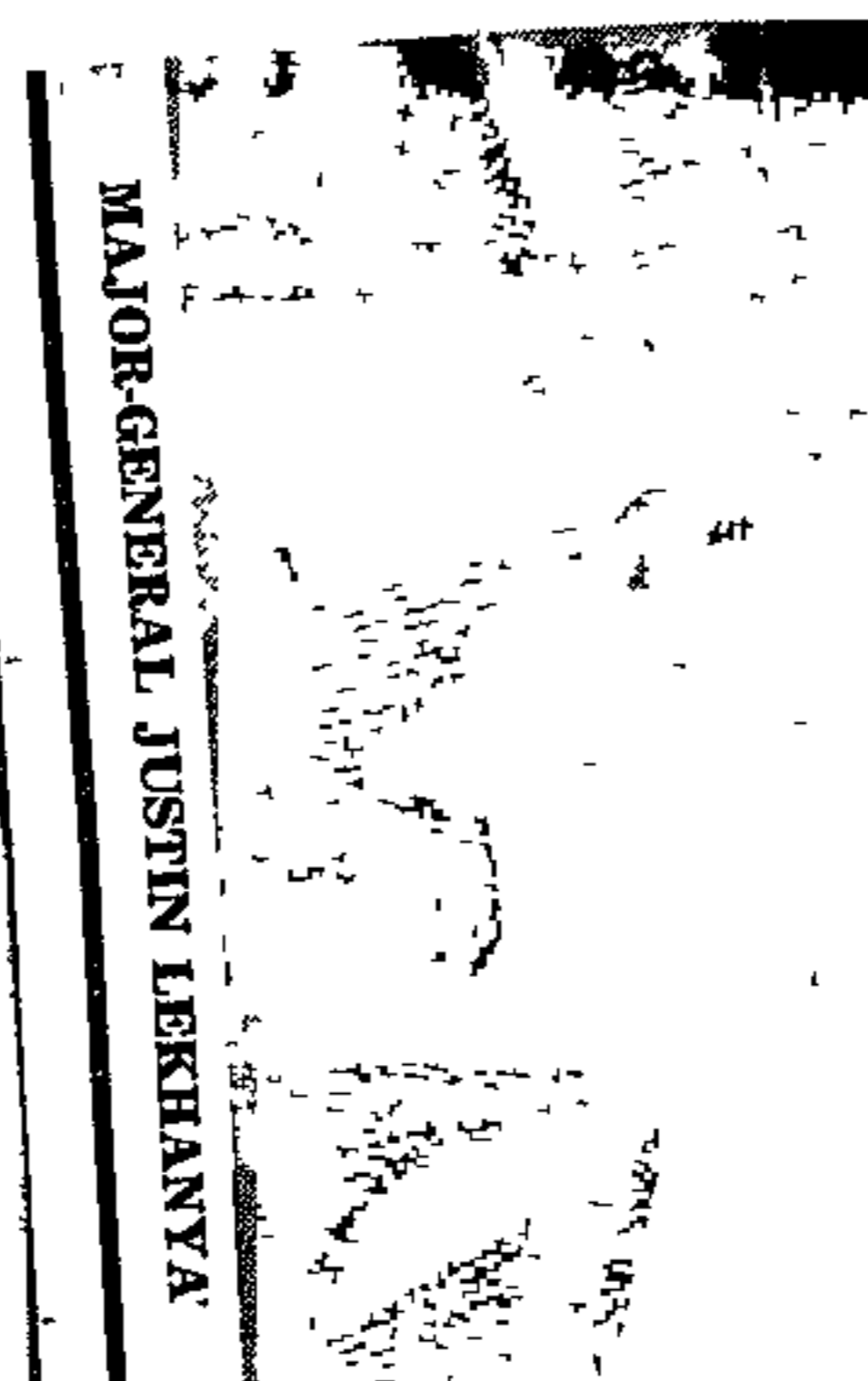
Government sources said the national council would be a forum to discuss a future government system

Lesotho is passing through an uncertain period with no sign of movement towards Westminster-type parliamentary rule demanded by civilian politicians

"There doesn't appear to be any serious opposition to the regime but how long it will last nobody knows," the diplomat said

The priest said "There is no more enthusiasm over the coup. People are now waiting to see what they (military rulers) will do"

MAJOR-GENERAL JUSTIN LEKHANYA



Productivity boost vital says Botha

BLOEMFONTEIN — If South Africa did not raise its productivity it would not overcome inflation, the State President, Mr P W Botha, told the 74th congress of the National Party of the Free State here at the weekend

Mr Botha said there were too many people who did not play a role in raising productivity in South Africa

Countries in Europe had lowered inflation with large-scale unemployment but this could not be allowed in South Africa, Mr Botha said

He said the solution had to be found in greater productivity. People had to be encouraged to make their contribution, not only formally, but in the informal sector

If productivity was raised, there would be greater responsibility with less uproar and greater stability in the country

Mr Botha said the evil forced upon the country from outside had to be withstood and "we will be an example of a country that has hope for Southern Africa"

"We must develop a message in South Africa that is better than what the communists offer"

Mr Botha told the congress that no economically-viable irrigation land in the Free State would be prejudiced by the Lesotho Highland Water Scheme, while various towns in the Free State would benefit

There would be a greater assurance of water after the inception of the Lesotho scheme, he added

The Lesotho water project was criticised last week at the congress of the Free State Agricultural Union

It was said there would be less water for the Free State after the scheme came into operation than at present.

Mr Botha assured delegates that the Lesotho Highland Water Project offered hope and optimism, not worry and fear

He said the possibility of providing Kimberley with water from the Orange River, via the Oranje-Riet system, was being investigated

Speaking of extra-parliamentary actions to get Parliament out of its position of strength and to bring about a new dispensation in South Africa, Mr Botha said that this was nothing new. There had been numerous attempts to manage the affairs of South Africa from outside, he added — DDC

MONDAY, 14 SEPTEMBER 1987

(2) Yes, however, see (n)(aa) hereunder

(a) All irrigators adjacent to the main stream of the Vaal River and the Vaalharts Government Water Scheme

(b) Present prices, but subject to normal price increases

(i) Water from the Lesotho Highlands Water Project is estimated to cost 75 cents per cubic metre at 1986 prices and is consequently too expensive to apply it for irrigation purposes

(ii) (aa) After each completed phase the full yield of water from that phase will be delivered into the Vaal Dam and this will result in a reduction of the risk of water shortages on the normal water quota that all consumers of water within the Vaal River supply area may experience

(bb) Consideration is currently being given to the possibility of raising the Bloemhof Damwall, in order to provide additional water to increase the irrigation water quota for the Vaalharts Government Water Scheme, after the commissioning of the first phase of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project

†Indicates translated version

For written reply

General Affairs

Lesotho Highlands Water Project

304 Mr A J W P S TERBLANCHE asked the Minister of Water Affairs †

(1) (a) When is it anticipated that the construction of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project will be commenced, (b) how many phases will this project comprise, (c) what is the envisaged date of completion of each of these phases and (d) what quantity of water will be supplied at the completion of each phase,

(2) whether any of this water will be made available for irrigation purposes, if so, (a) to what irrigation schemes and (b) at what price in each case if not, (i) why not and (ii) (aa) what effect this is expected to have on the Vaal Hartz irrigation scheme and (bb) what steps are envisaged in respect of the latter scheme?

The MINISTER OF WATER AFFAIRS

(1) (a) Work on the access roads will commence in September 1987, whilst work on the main component of the Project will commence in 1989

(b) Three phases and possibly four

(c) and (d)

Lesotho High-lands water project phase	Completion year	Water supply in million cubic metres per annum
1(a)	1995	531
1(b)	2002	850
2	2007	1 730
3	2017	2 000
4	2018	2 200

HoA

Water transferred from Orange River system

305 Mr A J W P S TERBLANCHE asked the Minister of Water Affairs †

(1) (a) How much water is transferred at present from the Orange River system, with the exception of the Vaal River, to other river systems and (b) to what river systems,

(2) whether any extensions are envisaged in this connection, if so, (a) when and

[Handwritten signature]

14/9/87
Haward

Lesotho, SA resolve to liaise on trade issues

Today

Political Staff

(167)

SOUTH AFRICA and Lesotho yesterday resolved to establish a trade and industry sub-committee "as soon as possible" to deal with small business development and border liaison between the countries' chambers of commerce and industry.

The decision follows the eighth meeting of the bilateral inter-governmental liaison committee in Cape Town yesterday.

The meeting, attended by senior officials from a wide cross-section of Lesotho's government ministries, deliberated on matters that included water conservation and the Lesotho Highlands Water Project, trade and industry, migratory labour, agriculture, transport, aviation, health and nature conservation, particularly in the Drakensberg/Maluti catchment area.

After the meeting, Deputy-Minister of Foreign Affairs Kobus Meiring, said there had in recent times been a "sincere effort" by the people and government of Lesotho to promote good relations with SA.

"There used to be a time when we were looking at each other across the border, lacking in the pre-requisite for a healthy relationship, namely trust.

"Those were times during which it must have been rather difficult for this committee and its sub-committees to keep their respective meetings rational and free from emotionalism," Meiring said.

Lesotho rescue workers battle against lack of communications

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SMA
13/10/87

By Ken Vernon, The Star's Africa News Service

MASERU — Continuing rescue and relief work in Lesotho's storm-hit Maluti mountains were hampered by lack of communications and transport networks, according to the SA Defence Force officer in charge

The death toll has risen to nine after the discovery of the body of another herdboy

SAAF Captain "Jakkie" Coetzer said that up until yesterday barely 300 kg of food had been airlifted to communities cut off by heavy snowfalls and torrential rain because of the priority of finding and flying out those known to be in danger of starving

He said "a disaster committee" formed by the Lesotho Government had decided last night to turn to re-supplying isolated villages as the last of those people known to be in danger had been rescued

Mountain landings tricky

It was almost impossible to locate all the huts and kraals where people might either be dead or in dire need of assistance in a sea of white mountain tops that the Malutis had become, he said

"Even local headmen become disorientated when lifted up in the helicopter to try to pinpoint where groups of herdboys and isolated huts might be located," he said

One of the helicopter pilots, Captain Johnny Lang, said picking up those needing to be flown out from mountainous areas was tricky because the mountain slopes were saturated

Floods death toll now 292

DURBAN — The official death toll in the Natal floods stood at 292 yesterday, with 164 people still missing and 56 581 homeless

In the Port Natal police division, 211 deaths were recorded, 131 people listed as missing, and 25 581 people homeless

In the Midlands division, 57 people were dead, 26 missing, and 30 000 homeless

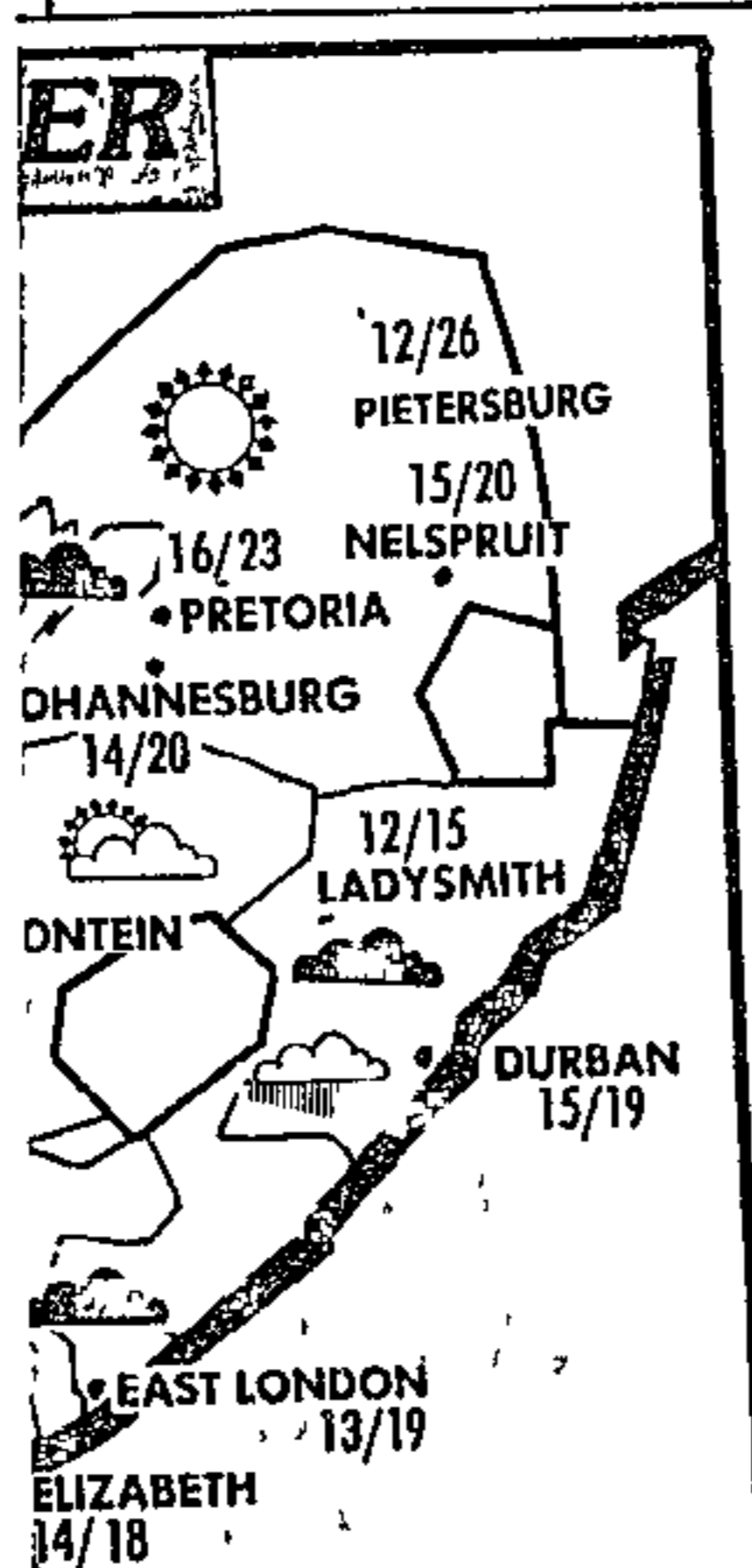
The Northern Natal division had 24 people dead, seven missing, and 1 000 homeless.

Durban's reservoir levels rose to about 75 percent yesterday but water curbs will remain.

He told how yesterday he had had to recover the body of a herdboy who had frozen to death, bringing the toll among this vulnerable group to at least nine in the past week

"About six boys had been huddled together for days in a tiny hut before one of them died," he said

"It was pitiful to see their tiny hut, about two metres wide, where they had had to live with only the raw carcasses of sheep to eat and not a single twig to burn in temperatures as low as minus 10 deg C"



and eastern parts with rain
warm with scattered thun-
C, yesterday: max 26 deg
th, — mm; so far this year
ears 68 mm; average an-

	Max	Min
	38	23
	12	10
15	08	Brussels
21	16	
	28	18
	30	17
	15	09
	28	24
	27	26
	24	17
	08	04
	17	12

Breweries strike

... were returning to normal
... the Southern Transvaal re-
... workers at the Isando and
... breweries and the Denver and
... depots continued to stay

... at the Bloemfontein brew-
... East London depot had joined
... said Mr. May...

Lesotho govt moves swiftly to contain village typhoid outbreak

By Ken Vernon, The Star's Africa News Service

MASERU — The Lesotho government is moving quickly to contain an outbreak of typhoid in the Mhaleshoek area following the disastrous floods and snowfalls that have devastated large areas of the east and south of the country.

Officials involved in the relief operations in the mountain kingdom said the outbreak had so far been confined to one village in the Mhaleshoek area.

The village, like hundreds of others, has been

cut off by torrential rains and melting snows that have turned the normally placid streams in the area into raging rivers

A doctor had to walk for several hours after being dropped by a four-wheel vehicle before he could reach the stricken village

The focus of relief will shift today to the southeast, following reports that dozens of villagers were on the point of starvation

Numerous villages have been cut off from normal supply points for almost two weeks by swollen rivers that have washed away virtually all bridges and large sections of the road network

Some villages were reported to have been without food for more than two days.

At the St James missionary school near Sehonghong, more than 300 children were reported to have no food left.

At a meeting of the government's disaster committee yesterday, it was decided that from today the focus of relief work would centre on Sehonghong.

The chairman of the committee, the Social Welfare Minister, Mr V Makeka, said yesterday that the committee had identified three main priorities

These were the supply and rescue by helicopters of people marooned on mountain tops by the heavy snows, the distribution of urgently needed food to villages and kraals isolated from their normal sources of supply, and the re-supply to country stores of essential commodities

(167) SM 15/10/87

Real cost of tragedy remains unknown

Lesotho disaster toll rises to 20

By Ken Vernon,
The Star's Africa News Service

SEHONGHONG — The official death toll in snowbound eastern Lesotho has risen to 20, but a trip to the disaster area has shown that the real cost in human lives and suffering might never be accurately known.

Communication in the sparsely populated area, surrounded by mountains that soar to more than 3 300 m, is virtually non-existent and rural shepherds are still suspicious of reporting their private disasters to "government men".

The police officer in charge of the Mashai area surrounding Sehonghong, Lieutenant Victor Nchela, told yesterday of an additional nine deaths that had so far not been reported to disaster control authorities in Maseru.

He described how several days previously he had spent two days searching the snow-covered mountains above nearby Matabeng for two herds-men who had been missing for a few days. He came across the men and their horses frozen to death amid the carcasses of the several hundred sheep they had been tending.

He said he knew of another seven people who had been swept away in the previous week trying to cross swollen rivers raging through the mountains in vain attempts to try and secure help for their isolated villages.

"I can just thank God for this operation," he

said, pointing to the fleet of four helicopters flying supplies from Sehonghong to outlying areas. "Without this many more people might have starved to death or died trying to cross the rivers."

Yesterday the government-funded relief operation shifted its emphasis to this south-eastern area after having previously concentrated on the north-eastern area around Mokhotlong.

A Lesotho Air force Skyvan and a SAAF Dakota flew in hundreds of sacks of mealie meal, tins of paraffin and sacks of fresh vegetables to the government store at Sehonghong. Helicopters lifted the supplies to the outlying villages.

Collect rations

There officials such as school teachers or clinic sisters sent word to the mountain farmers to collect the rations with horses and donkeys — the only form of transport still operating in the area.

The headmaster of the Saint Theresa Missionary School, Father Clement Kokoana, said that until yesterday's air drop of maize meal and paraffin he had been on the verge of closing the school and sending the 380 pupils back to their parents because they could no longer be adequately fed.

Father Kokoana said the much-needed maize meal would enable the school to continue to operate in the important months leading up to final exams.

Today the operation to Sehonghong was set to continue in an attempt to build up a reservoir of food supplies that could be distributed to local Sehonghong people who were also running short of supplies.

The official in charge of the government store at Sehonghong said she had received instructions that the food being delivered was to be sold, not distributed freely. The food had been purchased by the Lesotho government, not given, she said.

● See pictures on Page 8.

Stamp will aid flood relief

Political Correspondent

CAPE TOWN — The Government hopes to raise more than R10 million for flood relief in Natal with a special issue of a 26c stamp.

From the sale of every stamp, 10c will go to the National Disaster Fund.

The stamp will be the existing special issue depicting the Durban City Hall with an overprint saying "Natal Flood Relief".

The purchase of the stamps, available from November 1, will be optional, with the normal 16c stamp still available.

The State President, Mr P W Botha, said yesterday after a helicopter tour of a portion of the flood-ravaged province that he was impressed with the work being done to overcome the situation.

11647 (16/10/87) (167)
**R3-million needed
for Lesotho relief**

Argus Africa News Service

MASERU — Lesotho needs R3-million to relieve 100 000 people trapped in the mountains by snow and rain

China, West Germany and Britain have already made contributions.

A statement today by the Minister of Social Welfare, Colonel Blyth Ntsohi, said the money was needed in the next four weeks to buy supplies.

He said the country needed mealie meal, paraffin, wood and coal and other commodities

The goods will be airlifted because many roads are impassable.

Lesotho project 'to have massive effect'

BLOEMFONTEIN — The Lesotho Highlands Water Project would have enormous social and economic effects on the mountain kingdom.

The 25-year, R4bn project would swell Lesotho's economy and open up previously inaccessible areas of the country, SA Deputy Water Affairs director-general Theo van Robbroeck said yesterday.

He said the project, on which construction begins next year, would earn Lesotho R124m a year at 1985 values. This income would be indexed to maintain its real value.

Lesotho GDP in 1985 was only R571m at market prices. As estimated, 70% of government income came from Lesotho's share in the Southern African Customs Union pool.

DAVID FURLONGER

Van Robbroeck was addressing the open session of the executive committee meeting of the Federated Chamber of Industries (FCI).

Construction of the project would provide more than 2 000 direct jobs, with indirect employment expected to be double that figure. Lesotho would also become less dependent on SA electricity, Van Robbroeck said.

All-weather access roads through the mountains would "reliably" open up the interior for the first time and offer valuable tourism opportunities.

Yet not all the project's effects would be positive. It would wipe out about 270 homes, 4 000ha of arable land and nearly 19 000ha of grazing. Altogether, 4 000 families would lose arable

land — almost 20 000 people would be affected.

Lesotho Foreign Minister Charles Molapo said the water project should open the way for better political relations with SA.

He told the congress the two countries had too often allowed political factors to override economic and geographical realities.

"Thankfully, a sense of pragmatism has eventually triumphed over petty political differences," he said.

"After decades of unnecessary and short-sighted political tension between Lesotho and SA, the Highlands Water Project has opened up a totally new era of improved relations between the two countries. The political implications of this turn of events can scarcely be exaggerated."

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9/80y
4/4/87

Drop Inn's drop

In the chaos of last week's share markets, the fluctuating fortunes of recently-listed Drop Inn/Benny Goldberg's seem to have passed almost unnoticed. From an issue price of 75c in early September, the share plummeted to 38c before bouncing back briefly to 60c and settling at 45c.

Drop Inn's ups and downs were not a reflection of general sentiment last week. Competitor Aroma Liquor Holdings — listed on the DCM in June — firmed over the same period to nearly double the issue price. The explanation for Drop Inn's see-sawing price seems rather to lie in rumours and half-facts surrounding the group's schedule of litigation.

When Drop Inn chairman Sam Berk acquired Benny Goldberg's from Premier in May, he agreed with Hans Schreiber of Neethlingshof Estate to buy 55 000 cases of Neethlingshof's white wines over the 1987-1988 period. This was to secure the withdrawal of Neethlingshof's tender to acquire Benny Goldberg's.

But after Premier confirmed his bid, Berk indicated to Neethlingshof that he did not believe that all 55 000 cases of white wine destined for Drop Inn complied with the contractual description of "noble cultivar." The matter comes to court later this month with Drop Inn at risk for more than R2m if the court finds against it. This, says Berk, represents about 1,25% of annual group purchases, over two years.

Meanwhile Berk chose to contest with Premier the value of stock and assets which formed part of the Benny Goldberg's purchase. No one seems to be disputing the existence of the stock. Drop Inn appears to be trying to secure a reduction in the purchase price of Benny Goldberg's and has withheld payment of over R1m. Last week's share price tumble may have been fuelled by rumours that Premier had run out of patience and was ready to take the dispute to court. According to Premier's financial director Gordon Utian, Berk has undertaken to settle his differences with Premier in the very near future.

Berk tells the *FM* that agreement has been reached with Premier over valuing the stock. He is not aware of any dispute over the value of assets.

Other rumours likely to have affected the share include news of an indigestibly large parcel of branded whisky evidently acquired to lend colour to the opening of Benny Goldberg's warehouse store. A brand not a big seller in Johannesburg, it is now being jobbed around the trade, putting the success of Benny Goldberg's relaunch in some question.

Berk says the normal pre-Xmas stockholding of White Horse is certainly not being jobbed around.

Since the prospectus forecast profits based on a substantial turnaround of Benny Gold-

berg's by February 1988, disenchanted investors could be unloading stock in anticipation of an earnings shortfall. Berk disputes this, saying sales are ahead of the prospectus forecast and up about 35% on the corresponding period last year. He claims performance is about 20% ahead of the prospectus forecast.

When the Drop Inn share price strengthened briefly last week, the liquor trade was rife with rumours that a settlement had been reached between Drop Inn and Neethlingshof. Without confirmation, however, bearish sentiment about Drop Inn seems to have won through. With all parties tight-lipped about the impending confrontation, Drop Inn does not look the kind of stock through which to recoup any of the fortunes lost in the past fortnight on the JSE.

Pit Kenney

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WMAIL 6-12-87

The Lesotho link helps SA clothing reach the world

Weekly Mail Reporter,
Cape Town

LESOTHO is emerging as a back door for exporting clothing — barred for import by American legislation if it is made in South Africa — to the United States

At least six export-oriented companies are taking advantage of a loophole in US sanctions legislation which provides that goods produced in third countries with private South African capital are not affected

They have moved into Lesotho in the wake of improved relations between that country and the South African government since the coup which overthrew Chief Leabua Jonathan in January last year

Hennie van Zyl, director of the National Clothing Federation, said this week the six were larger manufacturers sophisticated enough to compete in the US market

He acknowledged they wanted to reach overseas markets through "the back door" and said it was "also partly in anticipation of problems that manufacturers may experience from other export areas in the future"

The move also gives the firms an entrée into the European Economic Community through provisions of the Lomé Convention which grants products of signatory countries preferential access to Europe. Signatories to the convention are mostly underdeveloped African, Caribbean and Pacific states. Lesotho is a signatory

Van Zyl said only about five per cent of the clothing produced in South Africa was exported before US sanctions were introduced. About half of that went to the US.

The move into Lesotho complements a drift by clothing companies into the "independent homelands" which South African unions (and companies which have stayed home) have viewed with some concern.

Restrictions on unions, low wages and attractive concessions have helped companies follow the South African government's decentralisation policy.

According to Van Zyl, there are now more than 100 clothing companies which have relocated or opened business in the "self-governing" TBVC areas of Transkei, Bophuthatswana, Venda and Ciskei

Although only a fraction of the 1 300 clothing manufacturers operating in South Africa, the advantages they enjoy give them a commercial edge over domestic companies.

Low wages and restrictions on unionisation antagonise South African unions which see these operations as undermining the gains of South African workers

But Van Zyl said it was unlikely the firms in Lesotho would "export" to South Africa in spite of the low wages they were able to pay.

"Wages form only about 15 percent of the final garment cost and those manufacturers have additional costs in getting fabric to Lesotho, workers with lower skills and a less-sophisticated infrastructure," he said.

● South Africa recorded a trade surplus of R10,7-million for the first nine months of this year, according to yesterday's figures from the Commissioner for Customs and Excise.

For reasons of "secrecy", according to officials, no breakdown was given of trade with the five different world zones. — Sapa.

3/11/89 (167) (167) (167)

Water for Africa? *FM*

After more than three decades of procrastination, firm bids to get the Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP) off the ground are finally afoot. The first water could flow into the Vaal Dam system in 1995.

According to sources, finance has been secured for the design, investigation studies, and related administration costs of Phase 1a — due to be completed in 1990. The money has been obtained through SA and Lesotho. It includes, on Lesotho's side, amounts from various international financing agencies.

The first phase will cost about R1,4 billion in 1985 prices. Estimates are being updated. The project will be self-financing, in the sense that revenues from the commodity it delivers will repay all loans.

It was foreseen at the time of signing the treaty between SA and Lesotho last year that finance could come from SA, the World Bank (via the International Development Agency), the European Economic Community (EEC), and smaller funding agencies, such as the Development Bank of SA.

The project consists of two elements:

- A hydroelectric dam in Lesotho costing about R250m, and
- The water transfer scheme.

It seems that the EEC is only interested in financing the Lesotho hydroelectric power station. The *FM* understands that the World Bank may be prepared to finance the part of the project in which SA has an interest.

The main construction funding is still under negotiation. Advisers are being appointed for securing finance for phase 1a. According to a source, everything is "going to schedule, but it is too early to provide indications on the possible sources of finance."

So far nothing has been signed.

There are "firm" moves to issue tenders in 1989, construction of "advanced" access roads should start in 1988, and main construction in 1990.

When completed, the project will engen-

der spin-offs lasting well into the next century, for example, benefiting Lesotho by about R124m a year when fully completed — equal to a quarter of its current GDP.

It appears that the project will still be tackled in several phases. Water could reach Vaal Dam by 1995 at a potential rate of 17 m³ a second — almost the monthly average consumption of a single household.

Special weirs have been constructed to monitor and measure the volume of water available in the highlands. Project feasibility studies began "in earnest" in 1983. A 19-volume report was completed in 1986, showing that the scheme could provide at least 2 000m m³ of water a year.

The first phase will include a programme

to provide infrastructure, including access roads for about 80 heavy vehicles a day. One major dam will be built, and two tunnels.

The next phase will consist of a 153 m high dam on the Senqunyane River near Mohale and a 32 km connecting tunnel with the Katse dam. This phase (expected completion, 2007) should meet water demands in the PWV area for the next 10 years.

The last phase involves a 155 m high dam at Tsoelike to provide a final flow of 65 m³ a second in the year 2019. Other dams could be added to increase this to 70 m³ a second.

Says a source: "SA is getting down to its last utilisable water resources. The cost of additional water would eventually be far higher if it does not buy from Lesotho." ■

Lesotho: row over water project

MICK COLLINS

A ROW has erupted over claims that a 30-year contract to transport 1,6-billion tons of material for the Lesotho Highlands Water Project has been awarded to a Johannesburg company.

The soon-to-be-listed Lyntex Transport Exchange said yesterday it had secured the massive contract said to be worth about R460m.

But Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA) CE Matsupo Sole denied the existence of the contract and said, if necessary, the LHDA would call in police to investigate the claims.

Sole said in Maseru "These people are crazy to make such claims. Nobody up here knows anything about them. A situation like this could never develop where the contract would go to one company."

But the directors of Lyntex, which is expected to come to the DCM of the JSE on December 4, were adamant and said subject to the conclusion of a formal agreement with the procurement brokers, the company had swung the deal.

The news could also spell trouble for local cement producers as one of the Lyntex contract details still to be worked out is whether the hydro scheme will call for imported or locally-made cement.

Lyntex MD Tony Teixeira said "The cement — which is the biggest part of our contract — could be imported or manufactured locally. This, we are informed, has still to be decided."

LESOTHO - GENERAL

JAN - DEC 1988

Swedes donate
R3m to Maseru

MASERU — The Swedish government had made a grant of R3m for the drawing up of new boundaries for Maseru, SABC radio said.

It said Department of Lands, Surveying and Fiscal Planning chief planning officer Ben Mateka said the work was expected to be completed by June next year. — Sapa

B/Daw 14/1/68

(167)

CALL Times 2/1/88 (167)

Two years of military rule

MASERU — Lesotho's military ruler, Major-General Justin Lekhanya, yesterday marked two years in power with a rally and parade that gave no hint of any return to barracks.

Speaking at the Lesotho National Stadium on Army Day, he said peace had returned to the country after a wave of violence under the late Chief Leabua Jonathan, who was toppled in a coup in 1986

But he made no reference to earlier promises to set up a National Assembly and return to barracks as soon as peace was restored. — Sapa-Reuter

THE WORLD THIS WEEK

LESOTHO's military coup two years ago has turned the tiny kingdom into a country that resembles South Africa's model of a perfect bantustan.

Like the homelands, the villages that dot the country's beautiful but harsh mountains have turned out thousands of migrant workers for the mines and farms of South Africa.

And since the January 20 1986 coup, the country has a government which is independent but obedient. Lesotho's military council refuses to harbour exile groups hostile to South Africa. It enters into bilateral agreements that boost Pretoria's international image — especially since, unlike homeland governments, the military rulers are internationally recognised and appears to have popular support at home.

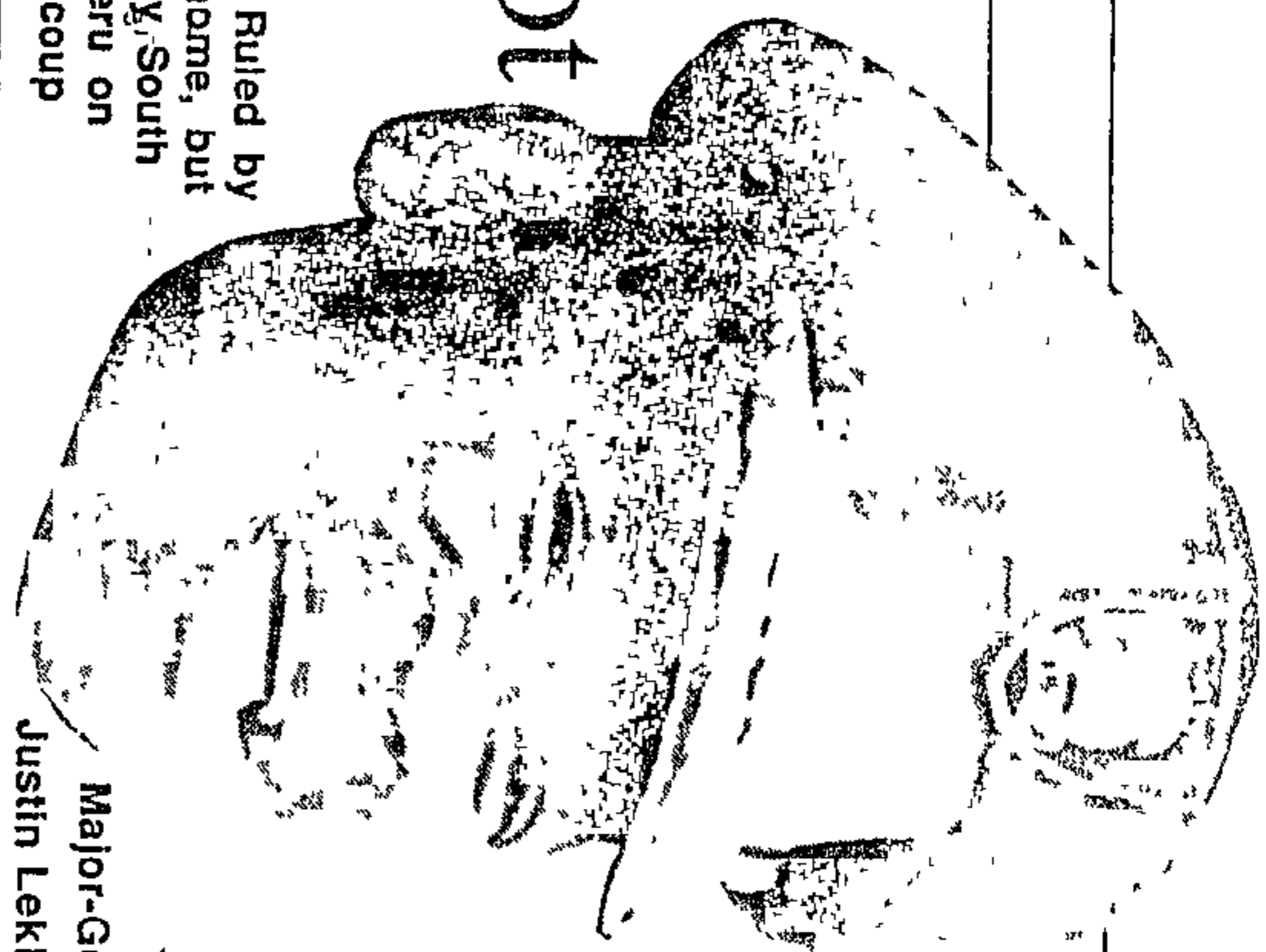
Jacob Kena, general secretary of the Lesotho Mineworkers' Union and founder member of the banned Lesotho Communist Party, was part of the crowd that sang and danced in the streets of Maseru when Major General Justin Lekhanya's troops overthrew the regime of Chief Leabua Jonathan, which in the last years of its rule had pursued contradictory policies of alignment with the Eastern bloc, support for South Africa's liberation movements and vicious suppression of internal dissent.

Like most Basotho, Kena believed the coup heralded a return to democracy and an end to the death squads that Jonathan's rule spawned. But on the eve of the second anniversary of the coup, Kena sat in his union's office, flanked by a bust of Lenin and portrait of Moshoeshoe, founder of the Sotho nation, and explained why he believes the popular euphoria was giving way to opposition to military rule. "The people were not happy with

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The perfect bantustan (only, it's not a bantustan)

Lesotho, independent, but dependent. Ruled by a military government all-powerful at home, but impotent abroad, its destiny decided by South Africa. EDDIE KOCH reports from Maseru on the second anniversary of the military coup



Major-General Justin Lekhanya

Chief Jonathan's rule because of its undemocratic nature. Since the military take-over, again people have been silenced. They are not free to express their views about the political development of the country.

"Furthermore, the economic situation is becoming more and more difficult and the government has failed to come out with a clear political, social and economic programme to meet the demands of the people. So the people have become disillusioned," said Kena.

On the political front, he singles out the reluctance of the military council to commit itself to a date for its promised return to civilian rule as the biggest cause of resentment. Lekhanya's experiment with local democracy, whereby a network of village committees are supposed to plan economic development "from below", has been hamstringing by bu-

reaucratic bullying which most often overrules local initiatives.

This, together with widespread corruption — some villagers tell of having to pay for emergency and donated by South Africa during Lesotho's floods — is generating a growing resentment in the villages.

But by far the biggest problem facing the military is the vast level of unemployment in a country where less than 30 percent of the adult working population has found work in Lesotho or South Africa.

No government has been, or is likely to be able, to deal with the scale of unemployment. But many Basotho believe Lekhanya could promote labour intensive and locally-owned enterprises if his government was less afraid of antagonising the businessmen who invest in Lesotho from across the border. Kena believes the military's loyalty

to South African business also helps depress wages inside the country.

"We have laws that govern conditions of unemployment but these lay down a minimum of only 120 maluti (rand) a month. The government argues that if they increased the minimum, investors would go to the homelands instead. And most employers ignore the law and pay wages of 60 or 80 maluti a month. That's how we are being reduced to the status of a bantustan," he said.

"And then there is the embarrassing question of the government's ties with South Africa. The people see us growing closer and closer to South Africa. And what economic benefit do they get? Nothing. So this is another cause of dissatisfaction," said Kena.

Despite the ban on all political activity by the military rulers, Kena believes this combination of factors has

led to some mobilisation of opposition to Lekhanya. A group of opposition politicians has launched an application in Lesotho's High Court to nullify the proclamation which brought the military council to power and seeking to restore the country's independence constitution. A ruling is expected early this year.

Last year's huge miners' strike also fuelled a growing militancy inside Lesotho, he says. "The rural areas were most affected by the strike. Rural people felt the impact of the strike after being exposed to new political ideas on the mines. I take that as an important factor in mobilising opposition to the government."

During the strike, Lesotho's growing trade union movement also developed ties with the Congress of South African Trade Unions after the National Union of Mineworkers urged the Lesotho unions to help stop the recruitment of seab labour.

Kena's union is affiliated to the Lesotho Congress of Free Trade Unions, which he says has organised 15 000 members — out of the 60 000 workers employed in Lesotho industry — into 23 affiliates.

Sitting in his office on the fourth floor of a building near the edge of Maseru's commercial centre, Kena looks out at the sprawling shanties and joala (beer) huts, where homeless men from the mines will spend the rest of their lives, to the new stadium that a South African company is struggling to complete, in time for the celebrations to commemorate the coup.

"People may attend the ceremony and hear the speeches, but there won't be the same song and dance that there was in 1986," he said. — Agenda Press

A former D1 Captain



ON PARADE . . . Maj Gen Justin Lekhanya, right, flanked by a senior officer

Lesotho 'at peace' — but no civilian rule in sight

24/1/88 S.T. (167)

THE SECOND anniversary of the military coup in Lesotho was marked by a rally in the capital of Maseru on Wednesday.

A crowd of 20 000 was packed in to the Lesotho National stadium on January 20 — now dubbed Army Day — to watch the military march past and to hear Military Council chairman Major General Justin Lekhanya give the assurance that peace had returned to the mountain

Sunday Times Reporter

kingdom.

The general had been expected to use the occasion to make good his promise that Lesotho would return to civilian rule — but he made no reference to the topic.

After being sworn in as Military Council head on January 24, 1986, Gen Lekhanya said in his first ad-

dress, which was delivered over Lesotho Radio: "Politics must stop in this country because politics is at the root of all the problems in which we find ourselves."

A month later he affirmed his intention to stay on "until true reconciliation has been achieved"

He said then: "Our return to the barracks will therefore be determined by the people themselves."

5/2/88

LESOTHO WATER PROJECT

On stream

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Tenders for the northern access road to the construction site of the Katse Dam in Lesotho — part of the R1,5bn first phase of the R5bn Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP) — closed last week

The northern access road — from Leribe through the rugged Maluti Mountains to the upper reaches of the Malibamatso River — will complement the R19,5m southern access road from Thaba Tseka to the dam site, an extension of an existing road

Work on the latter has started after the necessary finances were provided by the Development Bank of Southern Africa. To date, around R50m has been spent on feasibility and engineering studies for the LHWP. Costs on the northern access road should come in at around R100m

Both access roads must be completed by 1990, when construction work on the first phase of the project will commence. This includes the Katse Dam together with a major tunnelling system through the Maluti Mountains to the 276 MW hydropower

FIM 5/2/88

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(167)

plant and pond at Sentelina, a pumping pond at Tlhaka and another tunnel underneath the upper Caledon River to an outlet into the Ash River (a tributary of the upper Vaal system)

The cost of the 240 km of tunnels is included in the first-phase costs of the Katse Dam of R1,5bn

Four South African companies, three from Europe and one from South Korea have submitted tenders for the northern access road.

"The treaty for the LHWP — signed by SA and the Kingdom of Lesotho in October 1986 — stipulates that tendering shall be by competitive bidding without discrimination as to the nationality of any tenderer, unless the parties (SA and Lesotho) approve otherwise," says Water Affairs Director-General Theo van Robbroeck in a joint statement with his Lesotho counterpart.

Such approval will "obviously" be considered if tied finance is offered or tied finance guarantees are required by financing institutions — and if such finance or guarantees are in the interest of the project, they add

Tenders will be evaluated on objective criteria such as cost, experience and financial conditions — and "no other criteria will hold."

The upgrading of 263 km of existing roads and construction of 288 km of new access roads should add some R206m to total project costs, says Van Robbroeck

With the exception of Mozambique's Cahora Bassa Dam on the Zambezi River, the 166 m Katse Dam wall will be higher than any in Africa. On completion in 1995, Katse will provide the Vaal system with an additional 17m m³ of water a second (cumesec)

This massive boost to existing water supplies should adequately provide for future

growth in South African industry, which currently consumes 20m cumesec/year. The added "beauty of the project" is that water from Katse will require no pumping into the Vaal system. In addition, the gravitational flow will generate hydropower for Lesotho

The second phase of the LHWP — to be completed by 2002 — will cost around R445m (at 1985 prices). The massive Mashai Dam, with a "live" capacity of 5 375m³, scheduled for completion by 2007, will add a further R1,8bn to costs. The fourth phase is expected to be completed by 2017 at current projected costs of R400m. Meanwhile, a further dam at Ntohae, now added to the drawing boards, could push out final costs on the project even further than originally anticipated

However, "the total project will more than double the current yield of the Tugela/Vaal system," Van Robbroeck claims

Lesotho ^{D/0 26/}
declares ^{1/4/88}
state of ⁽¹⁶⁷⁾
emergency

MASERU — The military council which has ruled this landlocked mountain kingdom since a 1986 coup declared a state of emergency yesterday and said the security forces would deal "ruthlessly" with what it called a politically-inspired crime wave

Major General Justin Metsing Lekhanya said a special 24-hour police unit would be set up to deal with a wave of armed robbery, house-breaking and stock theft that has increased over the past six months

He said measures would be introduced to protect police and soldiers from legal action in the event that they kill someone believed to be responsible for a crime, and any citizen aged 16 through to 60 would be given the power of arrest

"These criminals want to create (the impression) to the world that Lesotho is ungovernable" — Sapa-AP

Lesotho-scheme work to start

PRETORIA — Work on the vast Lesotho Highlands water scheme is about to start in earnest

SA's representative on the joint permanent technical commission, Hans Peetenburger, said tenders for one of the main access roads to the Katse Dam had been received from international and local construction companies. Five of SA's biggest companies, including LTA, Concor and Grinaker, had tendered.

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B/dm

15/3/88

KENNISGEWING 166 VAN 1988**DEPARTEMENT VAN WATERWESE**

LESOTHO-HOOGLANDWATERPROJEK — HEFFING VAN VORDERING OP WATER VERSKAF UIT STAATSWATERWERKE IN DIE VAALRIVIER VIR STEDELIKE EN NYWERHEIDSDOELEINDES

1 Kragtens die bevoegdheid my verleen by artikel 138F (1) van die Waterwet, 1956, hef ek, Gert Jeremias Kotzé, in my hoedanigheid van Minister van Waterwese, met ingang van 1 April 1988 'n vordering van twee sent (R0,02) op elke kubieke meter water wat uit die Vaalrivier vanaf en insluitende die Grootdraaidam tot by die samevloeiing van die Vaalrivier en die Oranjerivier uit of deur middel van enige Staatswaterwerk aan enige persoon of liggaam vir uiteindelijke gebruik vir stedelike of nywerheidsdoeleindes verskaf of beskikbaar gestel word deur die Staat. Met dien verstande dat die vordering nie van toepassing is op enige sodanige water wat kragtens 'n toekenning van die Staat gratis uit of deur middel van sodanige Staatswaterwerk verskaf of beskikbaar gestel word nie.

2 Die vordering word deur die Direkteur-generaal van Waterwese verhaal gelyktydig met enige vordering wat ek kragtens artikel 66 van die genoemde Wet hef ten opsigte van die verskaffing of beskikbaarstelling van sodanige water.

3 Op enige vorderings wat na die betaaldatum nog nie betaal is nie, word rente op die onbetaalde bedrag gehef teen die rentekoers wat op daardie datum kragtens artikel 26 (1) van die Skatkis- en Ouditwet, 1975 (Wet 66 van 1975), van toepassing is.

4 By die toepassing van hierdie kennisgewing is een kubieke meter gelyk aan een kiloliter.

G J KOTZÉ,
Minister van Waterwese
(18 Maart 1988)

KENNISGEWING 167 VAN 1988**ADMINISTRASIE: VOLKSRAAD****DEPARTEMENT VAN LANDBOU EN WATERVOORSIENING**

KENNISGEWING VAN VERGADERING VAN SKULDEISERS KRAGTENS ARTIKEL 22 (1) VAN DIE WET OP LANDBOUKREDIET, 1966

Hierby word 'n vergadering van ondergenoemde applikant en sy skuldeisers op die plek en datum hieronder genoem, belê, met die doel om skuldeisers in staat te stel om hul vorderings teen die applikant te bewys en 'n skikkingsvoorstel van die Landboukredietraad te oorweeg.

J H RADEMEYER,
Direkteur Direkoraat Finansiële Bystand, Departement van Landbou en Watervoorsiening

NOTICE 166 OF 1988**DEPARTMENT OF WATER AFFAIRS**

LESOTHO HIGHLANDS WATER PROJECT —LEVYING OF A CHARGE ON WATER SUPPLIED FROM GOVERNMENT WATER WORKS IN THE VAAL RIVER FOR URBAN AND INDUSTRIAL PURPOSES

1 By virtue of the powers vested in me by section 138F (1) of the Water Act, 1956, I, Gert Jeremias Kotzé, in my capacity as Minister of Water Affairs, hereby with effect from 1 April 1988, levy a charge of two cents (R0,02) on each cubic metre of water supplied or made available by the Government from or by means of any Government water work in the Vaal River from and including the Grootdraai Dam to the confluence of the Vaal and Orange Rivers to any person or body for eventual use for urban or industrial purposes. Provided that the charge will not apply to any such water supplied or made available free of charge by the Government from or by means of such Government water work.

2 The charge shall be recovered by the Director-General of Water Affairs simultaneously with any charge which I may levy in terms of section 66 of the said Act in respect of the supply or making available of such water.

3. Interest will be charged on any charges not paid by the due date at the interest rate applicable on that date in terms of section 26 (1) of the Exchequer and Audit Act, 1975 (Act 66 of 1975).

4 For the purposes of this notice, one cubic metre shall be equal to one kiloliter.

G. J. KOTZÉ,
Minister of Water Affairs
(18 March 1988)

NOTICE 167 OF 1988**ADMINISTRATION: HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY****DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND WATER SUPPLY**

NOTICE OF MEETING OF CREDITORS IN TERMS OF SECTION 22 (1) OF THE AGRICULTURAL CREDIT ACT, 1966

Meeting of the undermentioned applicant and his creditors is hereby convened at the place and date mentioned hereunder for the purpose of enabling creditors to prove their claims against the applicant and of considering a proposal for compromise by the Agricultural Credit Board.

J H RADEMEYER,
Director Directorate Financial Assistance, Department of Agriculture and Water Supply

Aansoek van/Application by	Plek van byeenkoms/Place of meeting	Datum en tyd/Date and time
Pieter Frederik Salverus Viljoen, Posbus/P O Box 1470, Klerksdorp, 2570	Kantoor van die Landdros/Magistrates Office, Klerksdorp	13 Mei/May 1988 om/at 9h00

(18 Maart 1988)/(18 March 1988)

KENNISGEWING 168 VAN 1988**HAARLEM - BESPROEIINGSDISTRIK — DISTRIK UNIONDALE, KAAPPROVINSIE—KIESERSLYS EN VERKIESING VAN LEDE VAN DIE RAAD**

Ingevolge regulasie 9 van die regulasies afgekondig by Goewermentskennisgewing R 1417 van 13 September 1963 maak ek, Gottlieb Christian Daniel Claassens, in my hoedanigheid van Direkteur-generaal Waterwese, hierby die voorlopige kieserslys van die Haarlem-besproeiingsdistrik in die distrik Uniondale, Kaapprovinsie, wat opgestel is ingevolge artikel 83 van die Waterwet, 1956 (Wet 54 van 1956), soos in die Bylae hiervan vervat, bekend

Mnr J Beumer, Adjunk-hoofingeneur, Oos-Kaapstreek van die Departement van Waterwese, is ingevolge artikel 84 van genoemde Wet as kiesbeampte vir die doeleindes van 'n nominasievergadering vir die verkiesing van vier lede in Subdistrik A en vier lede in Subdistrik B van die Raad wat om 09h00 op 8 April 1988 in die pakskuur te Anhalt, Haarlem gehou sal word, aangestel

Persone wie se name op die voorlopige kieserslys voorkom, is geregtig om slegs persoonlik te stem en verteenwoordigers van geregistreerde maatskappye moet bewys lewer dat hulle of direkteure of aandeelhouders van sodanige maatskappye is en gemagtig is om sodanige maatskappye te verteenwoordig.

In gevalle waar eienaars gesamentlike stemreg het, moet hulle een uit hul midde skriftelik aanwys om namens hulle te stem.

Die kieserslys sal tydens die genoemde vergadering hersien word voordat nominasies vir die verkiesing van lede van die Raad gevra word

G. C. D. CLAASSENS,
Direkteur-generaal Waterwese

NOTICE 168 OF 1988**HAARLEM IRRIGATION DISTRICT — DISTRICT OF UNIONDALE, CAPE PROVINCE—VOTERS' ROLL AND ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE BOARD**

In terms of regulation 9 of the regulations promulgated by Government Notice R 1417 of 13 September 1963 I, Gottlieb Christian Daniel Claassens, in my capacity as Director-General Water Affairs, hereby make known the provisional voters' roll for the Haarlem Irrigation District in the District of Uniondale, Cape Province, contained in the Schedule hereto, which has been compiled in terms of section 83 of the Water Act, 1956 (Act 54 of 1956)

Mr J Beumer, Deputy Chief Engineer, Eastern Cape Region, of the Department of Water Affairs, has, in terms of section 84 of the said Act, been appointed returning officer for the purposes of a nomination meeting for the election of four members for Subdistrict A and four members for Subdistrict B of the Board which will be held at 09h00 on 8 April 1988 in the packing shed at Anhalt, Haarlem

Persons whose names appear on the provisional voters' roll are entitled to vote in person only and representatives of registered companies must produce proof that they are either directors or shareholders of such companies and are authorised to represent such companies

In cases where owners have a joint vote, they must designate in writing one of their number to vote on their behalf

The voters' roll will be revised at the said meeting before nominations for the election of members of the Board are called for

G. C. D. CLAASSENS,
Director-General Water Affairs

BYLAE/SCHEDULE**KIESERSLYS/VOTERS' ROLL
SUBDISTRIK A/SUB-DISTRICT A**

Naam/Name	Ingelyste oppervlakte Scheduled area (ha)	Getal stemme Number of votes
Beau Hary (Pty) Ltd	70	10
Fouché, P S	10	3
Fourie, A J S	50	10
Haggan, D J	0,8	1
J J Loock & Scun (Pty) Ltd	50	10
Johnston, C J	180	10
Johnston, W J	10	3
Lutherse Berlynse Sendingkerk van SA/Lutheran Berlin Mission Church of SA	70	10
Stander, M P H	76	10
Strydom, D B	30	7
Strydom, G G	25	6
Van der Spuy, A C	0,8	1

SUBDISTRIK B/SUBDISTRICT B

Naam/Name	Ingelyste oppervlakte Scheduled area (ha)	Getal stemme Number of votes
Adams, J	0,8	1
Adams, S M	1,8	1
Africa, P C		
Alexander, E E	1,2	1
Alexander, E E		
Alexander, S R	0,8	1
Alexander, S R		
Andrew, D B	0,4	1

A BLAST of dynamite in a remote Maluti Mountains valley has marked the start of building the Lesotho Highlands Water Project after 30 years of studies and planning.

The project will boost Lesotho's struggling economy by selling water to the rich mining and industrial areas of South Africa and will also supply power to the mountain kingdom.

While the project is being build over the next 30 years, it will provide Lesotho's citizens with a wealth of jobs.

Says Lesotho Highlands Development Authority spokesman, Mr Monyane Moleleki "It will obviously not provide much skilled employment, but we estimate 4 400 job opportunities will be created by the current construction phase alone."

Ecology

The scene will transform the lives of the Basotho, bringing them some of the amenities of modern life and will help their subsistence agriculture, infant industry and tourism. In this way, it will push the developing country several steps up the development ladder.

Preliminary environmental studies have shown that the project will do little harm to the ecology of the area. The loss of arable and grazing land that will be covered by water will be kept at a minimum as the dam will be in deep mountain valleys.

On the other side of the border South Africa's mining and industrial hive, the Vaal Triangle, will receive more than enough water for the

Lesotho water project blasts off

Southern 18/7/88

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FOCUS

Thirty years of planning

SA Press Association

growing demands of its industries

At the moment water is being pumped from the Tugela and Usuthu rivers to augment local water resources in the Vaal River system

Political

The first delivery of LHWP water to this area will be in 1995. The project development allows for a steadily increasing demand, which means that water from the Tugela and Usuthu rivers can be re-directed for use in Natal

"Water can also be re-directed to the Orange River in times of drought," said Mr Hans Pettenburger, South African representative of the project's joint permanent technical commission.

Rivers in southern Africa are international in character, in the sense that more than one country has rights to a river. That's why we have joint exploitation and development of the Orange/Senqu River in this instance."

Technical equipment necessary for construction will be supplied either from South Africa, as is the case with cement, or through the country's Durban harbour.

The JPTC does not foresee any problems should political changes occur in either of the two countries.

Says Hans Pettenburger "South Africa must have the water and Lesotho needs the electricity and development the scheme provides, as well as the income from its major export commodity — water."

Mr Monyane Moleleki confirmed this from the LHDA point of view. "We are confident that

(the project) will be implemented, whatever happens on the political front.

"Politics could influence details, such as differences as to the means of implementation, but the structure itself will remain unchanged."

Finance for the project as a whole has already been secured on the basis of the three-year feasibility study, completed in 1986.

Investors include the two countries concerned, the World Bank and the Committee for the European Economic Community.

"Detailed identification of costing needs will have to be assessed before the financing (is put to investors). We will have a detailed costing package secured by 1989," said Mr Pettenburger.

Study

Although the total estimated cost of R4 200 million, to be carried by both countries, seems astronomically high, South Africa will save half its proposed investment into the Orange Vaal water transfer scheme, which has been put aside in favour of the LHWP.

This benefit has been translated into a "royalty

system" being imposed upon South Africa's water imports from Lesotho.

The 1986 feasibility study identifies three construction phases to be completed by 2017. The 1934 m high Katse Reservoir, where construction started last Thursday, March 10, forms part of Phase One A.

"Katse Dam is the key to the LHWP. The highest dam in Africa at 165 m and one of the biggest in the world, the dam is a major storage unit," Mr Pettenburger said.

"It is a vast enterprise and so exceeds the capacity of any one firm of consulting engineers. That is why construction of Phase One A has been split into design packages."

This phase includes the building of the 1615 cubic metre Katse concrete arch dam, a 48 km transfer tunnel to the power complex at Sentelina headpond and the headpond itself, the Thlaka tailpond and its 34 km delivery tunnel to the Ash River north of Clarens in the Free State in South Africa.

Tenders

The five design package contracts are:

- Infrastructural development. There are no heavy-duty access roads to the site. The upgrading of these as well as the Caledon River bridges near Ficksburg and Fouriesburg in the Free State will be financed by South Africa, who will also award the contracts.

- The establishment of site construction camps falls into Lesotho's infrastructural development programme and tenders will be put out by the Lesotho Government.

- The contract for the dam transfer tunnels and ancillary works has been awarded to an international South African team who are at present "doing a staggering water project in Libya" according to Mr Pettenburger.

- The hydropower complex at Sentelina Dam and Maseru will be financed by Lesotho and the contract awarded to an international firm.

- The delivery tunnels to the Vaal River system will be financed by South Africa and fall under the Trans Caledon Tunnel Authority, brought into being by the LHWP-treaty for that purpose.

"Our detail-design phase is coming to an end and the exact position of the Katse Dam has been identified. Within three weeks the reports and recommendations will be circulated to everybody concerned," Mr Pettenburger said.

Katse Dam is expected to be completed by 1990 and, assuming drought conditions, is expected to take two-and-a-half years to fill to transfer capacity.

"South Africa will receive her first water in 1995, most likely towards the end of 1995," the JPTC representative said.

WORK	HOME	RESS

R4 200 million is the cost of water from Lesotho

D/D 21/3/88
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A blast of dynamite in a remote Maluti Mountains valley has marked the start of building the Lesotho Highlands Water Project after 30 years of studies and planning.

The project will boost Lesotho's struggling economy by selling water to the rich mining and industrial areas of South Africa and will also supply power to the mountain kingdom.

While the project is being built over the next 30 years, it will provide Lesotho's citizens with a wealth of jobs.

Says Lesotho High Development Authority spokesman Moryane Moleleki "It will obviously not provide much skilled employment, but we estimate 4400 job opportunities will be created by the current construction phase alone."

The scheme will transform the lives of the Basotho, bringing them some of the amenities of modern life and will help their subsistence agriculture, infant industry and tourism. In this way, it will push the developing country several steps up the development ladder.

Preliminary environmental studies have shown that the project will do little harm to the ecology of the area. The loss of arable and grazing land that will be covered by water will be kept at a minimum as the dam will be in deep mountain valleys.

On the other side of the border South Africa's mining and industrial area, the Vaal Triangle, will receive more than enough water for the growing demands of its industries. At the moment water is being pumped from the Tugela and Usuthu rivers to augment local water resources in the Vaal river system.

1995 will see the first delivery of LHW water to this area. The project development allows for a steadily increasing demand, which means that water from the Tugela and Usuthu rivers can be redirected for use in Natal.

"Water can also be redirected to the Orange River in times of drought," said Hans Pettenburger, South African representative of the project's Joint Permanent Technical Commission.

"Rivers in southern Africa are international in character, in the sense that more than one country has rights to a river. That's why we have joint exploitation and development of the Orange/Sengu River in this instance."

Technical equipment necessary for construction will be supplied either from South Africa, as is the case with cement, or through Durban harbour.

The JPTC does not foresee any problems should political changes occur in either of the two countries. Says Pettenburger "South Africa must have the water and Lesotho needs the electricity and development the scheme provides, as well as the income from its major export commodity water."

Moryane Moleleki confirmed this from the LHDA point of view. "We are confident that the project will be implemented, whatever happens on the political front.

"Politics could influence details, such as differences as to the means of implementation, but the structure itself will remain unchanged."

Cathy Winter: Johannesburg

Investors include the two reservoir, where construction, started on the World Bank and the Committee for the European Economic Community.

"Detailed identification of costing needs will have to be assessed before the financing is put to investors." We will have a detailed costing package secured by 1989," said Pettenburger.

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The establishment of site construction camps falls into Lesotho's infrastructural development programme and tenders will be put out by the Lesotho government.

The contract for the dam, transfer tunnels and ancillary works has been awarded to an international/South African team who are at present "doing a stage-gearing water project in Libya," according to Pettenburger.

The LHW-treaty for that purpose "Our detail-design phase is coming to an end and the exact position of the Kaise dam has been identified. Within three weeks the reports and recommendations will be circulated to everybody concerned," Pettenburger said.

Kaise dam is expected to be completed by 1990 and, assuming drought conditions, is expected to take two-and-a-half years to fill to transfer capacity.

"South Africa will receive her first water in 1995, most likely towards the end of 1995," the JPTC representative said.

Construction of the five access roads has started and will be completed in three months time.

The project is expected to be completed by 2002. The construction cost is estimated, at today's prices, to be R445,3-million.

The largest reservoir, with a 21-million cubic metre capacity, will be constructed at Mashai on the Sengu river to the south east of Kaise dam. Phase two will include a transfer tunnel to Kaise dam, through which water will be pumped from Mashai. From there a transfer tunnel, parallel to the first, will carry water to South Africa. By then Lesotho's power consumption will have increased. The cost estimate of phase two is R1 801,7-million and is expected to be completed by 2007.

Phase three sees the construction of the Tsoelike reservoir to the south of Kaise dam, also on the Sengu river. A pumping station will lift its water into the Mashai reservoir from where it will use the existing channels through Kaise to the Ash River and eventually, the Vaal reservoir. The estimated construction cost is R398-million and it is expected to be completed by 2017.

Contracts for all phases will be awarded by tender. Says Pettenburger "We are not only equitable, we are also cost-conscious. We may be the best man win."

Lesotho shooting: 2 arrested

EAST LONDON — Lesotho police have arrested two people in connection with the shooting of two Transkeians last week.

A Lesotho police spokesman in Maseru confirmed last night that one of the Transkeians, Mr Mazizi Maqhekeza, of Willowvale, had been shot and killed in Queen Elizabeth II Hospital while recovering from a bullet wound.

He said two suspects had been arrested in connection with the shooting but he would not give any further details.

However, relatives of Mr Maqhekeza, a student at the National University of Lesotho in Roma, said he had been travelling in a car with two friends when they had been forced off the road by a group of people said to be Lesotho police.

They were told that an instruction had been issued to kill all three of them.

Mr Thandwefika Radebe of Umtata was shot and killed instantly, while Mr Maqhezeka, was wounded in the ankle and an unnamed companion escaped.

Mr Maqhekeza was admitted to hospital two days later, where he was allegedly shot and killed.

A report that a nurse who witnessed the incident was detained could not be confirmed.

DDR

ANC man assassinated in Maseru hospital bed

By FRANZ KRUGER

AN African National Congress guerrilla has been shot dead in his hospital bed in Maseru — and Lesotho authorities have been accused of complicity in the death-squad style killing.

Mazizi Attwell Maqakeza was shot dead by an unknown gunman last Tuesday night in the Queen Elizabeth II hospital where he was recuperating from a bullet wound sustained in an earlier incident.

He was killed only days before he was due to be flown to Zimbabwe for medical treatment.

He had told a relative he was afraid he might be assassinated by "South African assassins" who had allegedly been seen at the hospital.

Maqakeza had asked his Durban-based lawyer, Kwenza Mlaba, to arrange for him to move as he did not feel he was getting adequate medical attention in Maseru.

Mlaba made arrangements with the ANC and the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) and Maqakeza was due to be flown out last Friday.

Instead, a lone gunman shot him dead in his hospital bed on Tuesday night at about 7.45pm. The relative said his bed had been moved under a window a few days before, fuelling her fears for his life.

The gunman shot through the window, while other patients in the ward watched. When the relative went to see him the next morning she saw "a pool of blood on the floor and the sheets were drenched in blood."

A police representative confirmed Maqakeza had been shot at the hospital by a lone gunman firing through the window with a 9mm pistol. A policeman standing guard over Maqakeza had been unable to do anything.

Two men had accompanied the gunman, but no arrests had been made so far. There was "no trace", he said, and the matter was "dark at present". Police had no idea who could be responsible, he said.

The incident is likely to harden perceptions that Lesotho, under Major-General Justin Lekhanya, is acting in Pretoria's interests, particularly as the dead man's relatives say he was shot

● To PAGE 2

Picture: JUDA NGWENYA, Reuters

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W/M...
25-30/3/88

ANC man gunned down in Lesotho hospital

and wounded by members of the Royal Lesotho Defence Force earlier this year.

Last month Maqakeza was travelling with two friends at night on a lonely road near Tswaing Bridge in the Mafiteng district when they were stopped by heavily-armed soldiers.

The soldiers demanded the three identify themselves. All three produced Transkei passports and identified themselves as ANC members.

"The soldiers told them if they were ANC, then they were exactly who the (Lesotho) State of Emergency was declared for," the relative said. The soldiers searched the three and their

car and found a pistol on Maqakeza. "They lined them up and began to shoot," she said.

Thandwefika Radebe, a Roma University law student, was shot dead, Maqakeza was wounded in the knee, while the third man managed to escape.

Radebe and Maqakeza were found the next morning by some workers, who took them to Mafiteng hospital. Maqakeza was transferred to Maseru's Queen Elizabeth II Hospital in a critical condition.

● From PAGE 1

The relative said Maqakeza had been under guard at Queen Elizabeth hospital. He had told her he was being interrogated and tortured.

Mlaba said he had instructed Maseru attorneys to take up the matter with the military council and had received assurances that Maqakeza's interrogation would be stopped, and that he would not be handed over to Transkei or South African authorities.

Lesotho police have disputed this

account. A representative said Maqakeza was part of a "gang" that attacked police.

They had been driving an unregistered foreign car and ran off when stopped by police. They had opened fire on police, the spokesman said.

Maqakeza had been registered as a refugee with the UNHCR. But local UNHCR director K Afriye said Maqakeza had once had a file with his office, but this was now closed.

Maqakeza is believed to be the same man named as a "trained terrorist" by

Law and Order Minister Adnaan Vlok in January this year. Vlok had issued a statement in response to a report in *Weekly Mail* describing a shootout between ANC guerrillas and Transkei police in January 1987.

Vlok said South African security police were called to assist Transkei police at the Lurwayizo trading post near Willowvale.

Maqakeza, he said, had been one of four occupants of a car spotted in the area. Another was Zolile Ntlathi, who Vlok said was the commander of the ANC's Transkei military machinery. When stopped by Transkei police, the four escaped. — Elnews

W/M...
25-30/3/88

Minister retired ^{soweta} 25/3/88

MASERU — Lesotho's military government has retired a junior Minister four days after a Cabinet reshuffle in which three new Ministers were appointed. (167)

A spokesman for the Military Council said Mr Paul Mabathoana, a former Minister of State for Agriculture, had had his appointment terminated by the chairman of the council, Maj Gen Metsing Lekhanya.

No reasons were given

— Sapa

DEAR Mr Thlooe — I am an American who has been teaching philosophy at black universities (in Nigeria, Kenya and Papua New Guinea) for the last 12 years, as a result of which I have learned a good deal about Africa and Africans, and as a result of which, also, I am not your typical "bleeding heart white liberal."

I have lived with black people for the last twelve years, have been *de facto* married to one, and have created and run a large cottage-type industry (in Kenya) employing 30 people — all Africans I could not have done that had I not gotten along quite well with them. I also would have been unable to do that had I not understood Africans quite well

If you were to go to Kenya and talk to any ordinary blacks who knew me — who were, say, my employees, or students of mine at the university — and ask them about me, I think you would get a universally favourable reaction.

I say this as a *propadeutic* to what I am going to say by way of answering the questions you ask in your 'Perspective' column of March 22, 1988, since I know that most Western 'liberals' would immediately pronounce my ideas racist You say

I sometimes ask my white friends how they would feel if they were not allowed to have a say in the running of their own lives, if they were not allowed to vote for or against the people who wield power in this land, if they were confined to the ghetto of Soweto . . .

They squirm uncomfortably, and give the usual ho-hum

Hurtful

I'd be happy to take the opportunity to answer that question, since it is a fair one I might feel bad, though not as bad as I would if I went into a store and was told I could not try on clothes because I was black (another example blacks have given me of racial discrimination they have experienced in South Africa.

There is no doubt whatsoever that such behaviour can be very hurtful and degrading to individuals. However, to say simply that therefore such actions are *everything considered* wrong is much too simple. Could there be any (good) reasons for not allowing blacks to vote

SA blacks are better off under white rule

Sowetan 7/4/88

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OPINION

By EUGENE VALBERG
Senior Lecturer in Philosophy,
National University of Lesotho.

and for not allowing them to try on clothes in a store (etc)?

Well, I will simply ask you this question: What would happen in S Africa if there was 'one man one man vote'? In other words, what would happen if blacks had effective political control of South Africa — meaning, among other things, that they ran and supervised elections? You can hem and haw all you want, but if you're going to be at all honest — and if you know anything about the rest of Africa (in other words, black Africa) and blacks as such, South African or otherwise — you will have to say that the probability of there being regular free and fair elections is minuscule at best

The track record of black Africa is virtually unblemished in this

regard: no country in black Africa has any record of free and fair elections. Moreover, few (if any) countries in black Africa allow columnists to write the sort of things you do every day out and out severe criticism of the current government

Do you think you could write what you do of the government in Kenya or Nigeria or Zimbabwe or Tanzania or the Camerouns?

Do you think universities in these countries could openly defy the government and avowedly commit themselves to a radical change in the form of government (anti-apartheid)? If you think they could then you know nothing whatever about black Africa

Vote

I am saying, categorically, that if there was 'one man one vote' in SA, that would mean, effectively, "no man no vote". It would also mean an end to the (relatively) free and independent judiciary that still exists in SA, as well as free trade unions (which are rare if not completely unknown in black Africa), as well as the (again, relatively) free and open press, which allows persons like yourself to openly criticise the government

None of these things exist to any real degree in black Africa and I am saying that there is no reason whatever for thinking that a black dominated South Africa would somehow be a remarkable exception

THIS article is a reply to Joe Thlooe's Perspective column of March 22, 1988.

One could of course argue about this. The point is, if — or to the extent that — what I am saying is true, or at least plausible, then there may be very good reasons why there should not be a universal franchise in SA

This means, of course, that people who might very well be quite deserving of it — probably yourself — are denied it, and also that many people (whites) less deserving of it, have it, and that is, in and of itself, unfair. Under such policies, individuals undeniably suffer and are denied things which, *qua individuals*, they ought to have. But assuming that there is no practicable way of giving you the vote without giving it to all blacks — in other words, without having a black run government — then the reasoning is that it can't be given to any blacks

I have heard that Botswana may be an exception. But it is not a very good example, since it is, economically, a satellite of SA, and is not likely to have been in the position it is were it somewhere else in Africa

So to your question "How would I feel (if I were black) and were not allowed to vote?", my answer would be: "I wouldn't like it, of course; but if I'm going to be honest, I can see very good reasons for saying that it would be a disaster if blacks were given the vote and we had a black dominated government

Bad as the present unrepresentative Govt (as far as blacks are concerned) may be, it would be a lot worse to have things run by a bunch of corrupt

incompetent blacks, who didn't allow anyone to vote, and who were completely intolerant of any criticism, and would never allow me to write the things I do in the newspaper and would never allow students at the universities to get away with what they do now (etc)

In short, one of the things I am saying is that if blacks were given the vote, the vast majority of blacks would be much worse off than they are now, both in terms of political rights — they still wouldn't vote, and would have less access to justice (through a relatively independent judicial system), free trade unions and freedom of dissent — and economically

If you want to argue that blacks would rather be more oppressed by blacks than a bit less oppressed by whites, you are free to, but I do not think it is an argument many blacks would, in calmer moments, accept

Democratic

I am also saying that a Govt that is answerable to 20 percent of the population is infinitely more democratic than one which is answerable to absolutely no one, and hence that the present SA Govt is infinitely more democratic than virtually any in black Africa.

It is also my opinion — based upon my knowledge of blacks in general and my conversations with ordinary blacks in SA — that the majority of blacks in SA recognise most of this and do not want to see a black run government, whatever their complaints about the present government, I think they recognise that a black government would be much worse, in almost every respect.

Let me get back to the clothes-changing example. It would be humiliating for a black to be told he can't try on clothes — though whites are free to. But could the store owner have good reasons for doing this? Suppose he has found, on the basis of experience, that blacks are much more often thieves than whites. Not

P.T.O.

'BLACKS ARE BETTER OFF'

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• From Page 6

CS RIT
So no fair

that every black is a thief or that no whites are, but that proportion wise, the chances of a black being a thief are substantially greater than for a white. And that many blacks will use the ploy of trying on clothes to steal some. Assume that it is a small, though busy, store and he simply can't afford to check each and every customer as they leave the store (etc). So he adopts, as a rule-of-thumb, that blacks cannot try on clothes.

I have discussed this example with many of my students, here and elsewhere, and they agree, first, that blacks are more likely to steal than whites, and second, that if this is the reason the owner will not let blacks try on clothes, then he is not being racist. You can go on about why the blacks are more often thieves, and somehow blame it to apartheid, but though I

wouldn't agree, it makes no difference to the businessman he is in business to make money, which means preventing theft. It doesn't matter to him why blacks steal more, if it's a fact, then he must deal with it — full stop.

The analogy here (with voting) is this: You may be a completely honest black person who would never think of stealing something, and yet when you come into this store, this rule applies to you just as much as it does to every other black, it also, of course, means that potential white thieves will be allowed to try on clothes. So you will suffer. But whose fault is that?

Is it the store owner's, who is simply protecting his business? I don't think so. If you were in his shoes, you'd do exactly the same thing. If there is a fault, it is with blacks as a group. If it is true that they steal more than whites then

individual blacks — including the honest ones — will suffer because of the behaviour of the dishonest ones. There is injustice there, but I don't see who you can blame other than the blacks the blacks who steal and the leaders who go around blaming it on someone or something else (apartheid), instead of facing up to it and trying to do something about it. I am not saying that apartheid cannot have anything to do with it, I am saying that it is certainly not the whole reason.

This, then, is how I would answer your question. It has two parts: one, the claim about what would happen if there were a universal franchise, and two, the statement that if that is true, then that is a good reason for not having a universal franchise — which means, in this case, for blacks not voting. Of course if blacks were, as in America, 10 percent of

the population, rather than as in SA, 80 percent, that would be a different kettle of fish. But they are not 10 percent, they are 80 percent.

Either part of the argument can be challenged. The first is essentially empirical, the latter, a moral/philosophical claim. If one accepts the former, but still denies the latter, then he is saying that even if instituting universal franchise (democracy) meant the certain and complete demise of democracy, that nevertheless it must be done, that would be a paradox which I think it would be very difficult to defend.

As I said, I am by profession a philosopher, and I write about these things (as remarks in my computer), I'm always interested in having others read them to get their opinion and would be happy to share them with you. I'll look forward to hearing from you in any case.

MASERU — A Maseru attorney, Mr Goitsewang Nthethe, who has been in detention since Thursday last week, refused to leave the prison of the Maseru central police station after the high court had ordered his release on Tuesday night.

A family spokesman said yesterday that Mr Nthethe feared the police would re-arrest him

Police stood watch

LAWYER FEARS ARREST

over him throughout the night and continued the watch yesterday, but would not arrest him as long as he was on police premises

Mr Nthethe was

arrested as he tried to approach the residence of the Chief Justice, Mr Justice Brian Cullinan, to present an application for *habeas corpus* in the chambers for the release of a client, Mr Sina Lebabo, who had been detained at Quthing in southern Lesotho

Mr Nthethe was released on Easter Saturday after his wife had filed an application.

Source 167

DIP 714/88

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World "contenders" for water scheme

JOHANNESBURG — The international civil engineering community is flocking to South Africa, in an attempt to win multi-million rand sections of the R4,2 billion Lesotho Highlands Water Scheme contract

Among the locally-based companies in the running are Alfred McAlpine, Basil Read, Concor Construction, Grinaker-Group, Five Roads and Murray & Roberts

The strong international presence, here despite sanctions and disinvestment, includes representatives from the United States, the United Kingdom, West

German and French companies

Engineers, aware of international opinion, have been keeping a low profile both in South Africa and Lesotho

"Governments may attempt to slap bans on sports teams coming out here but when it comes to the bottom line—cash—they tend to keep quiet

"My government knows we are here. It knows we are working in close co-operation with South Africa and many of its engineers," said one representative who did not wish to be identified

The Joint Permanent Technical Commission does not foresee any problems should political changes occur in either of the two countries

A Lesotho Highlands Development Authority spokesman, Mr Monyane Moleleki, said. "We are confident that (the project) will be implemented, whatever happens on the political front

Finance for the project as a whole has already been secured on the basis of the three-year feasibility study, completed in 1986

Investors include the two countries concerned, the World Bank and the Committee for the European Economic Community — DDC

THE WORLD THIS WEEK

IN the early 1970s, following the killing of an opposition politician in Lesotho, people began to talk of the arrival of the *Koeeko*, a mythical and deadly animal.

References to *Koeeko* symbolised the deep disgust the people of the tiny landlocked kingdom felt about a spate of politically-linked — and unsolved — killings and kidnappings.

Since then the bloody trend has escalated, with accusing fingers being pointed at government, opposition parties, and even neighbouring South Africa.

And the shooting earlier this month of an African National Congress guerrilla in his hospital bed in Maseru merely confirms that *Koeeko* survived the transition between Chief Leabua Jonathan's Basotho National Party government, and the new military regime of General Metsing Lekhanya.

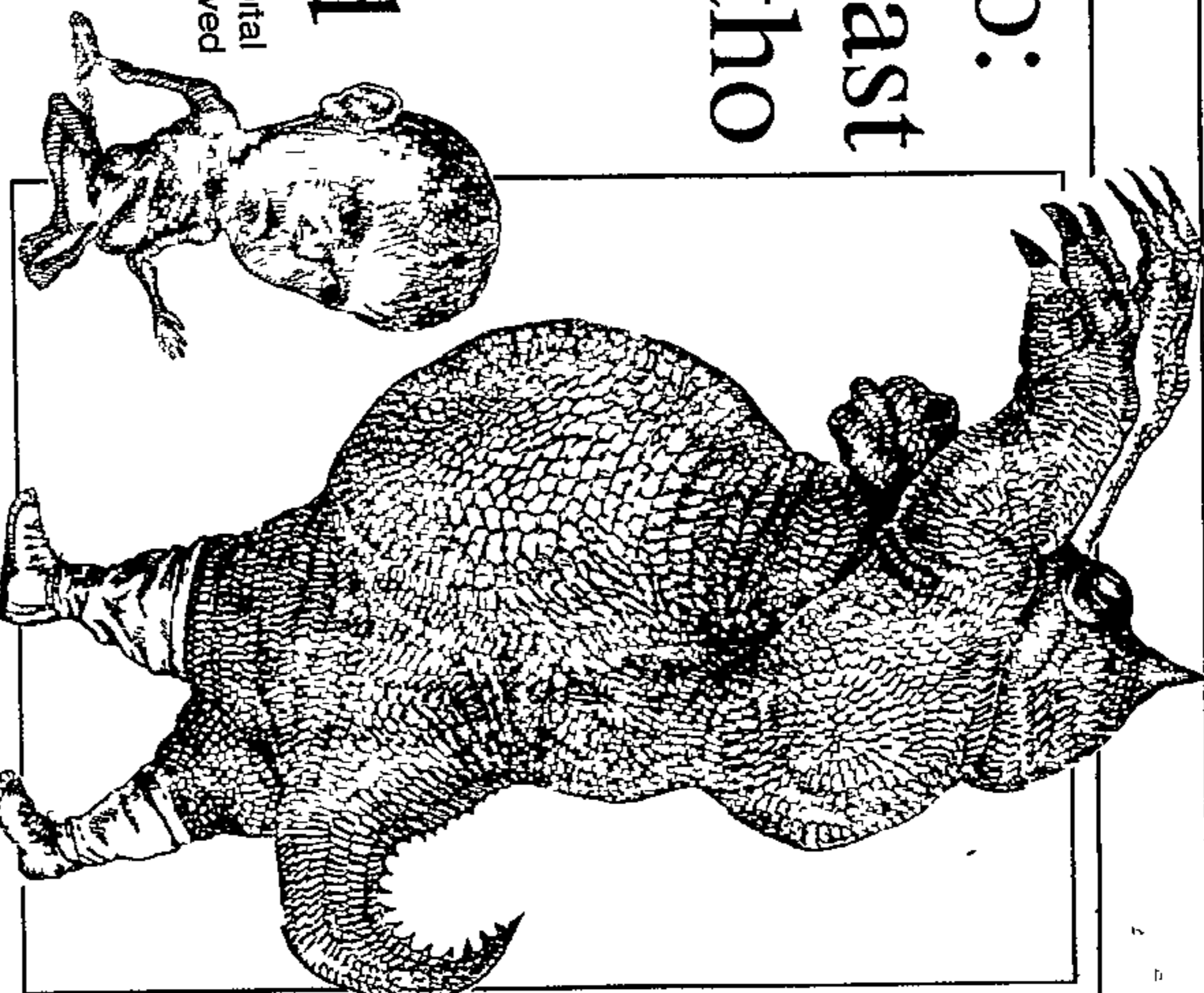
Since the military takeover of January 20, 1986, there have been seven politically-linked deaths in Lesotho — including the assassination of former Information and Broadcasting Minister Desmond Theko Sixhishe and former Foreign Affairs Minister Vincent Montsi Makhele, and both of their wives.

The four bodies were found at *Khlong La Baroa* (Bushman Pass) in the Maluti mountains near Maseru. They had been kidnapped from a house in the village of Roma.

Three other prominent opponents of military ruler General Metsing Lekhanya died in separate incidents: Brigadier BM Ramotsekhane, Sergeant M Tlane, and rebel group leader Col-

The Koeeko: A fantasy beast prowls Lesotho ... leaving all-too-real blood behind

The ANC man murdered in a Maseru hospital ward is the latest victim of a chain of unsolved Lesotho killings that go back to the early seventies. Locals talk of a mythical but deadly animal they name the *Koeeko*.



onel Sehlabo Sehlabo. Unsolved killings and kidnappings predating the 1986 coup are legion — and provide a horrifying chronological saga of political bloodletting.

● In the early 1970s, while the country was still nursing its wounds after a bloody election period (which saw the declaration of a State of Emergency and the detention of leaders of the then-opposition Basutoland Congress Party), the BCP's Makoloi Koloj was found dead in the bushes of the Mohokare River. There were wounds on her head and body, but a post-mortem was never performed.

● In 1974, an abortive rebellion against the ruling BNP by the opposition (BCP)

from wounds sustained in the attack.

● The LLA struck again in July: Mokhehle's former right-hand man, Koenyama Chakela, was shot dead in a taxi. He had accepted an amnesty offer to political exiles in 1980.

● In August 1982 the LLA ambushed Minister of Works Jobo Khahiso Rampeta, next to his home in Khokhoba in the eastern part of the country. He was killed together with his guards by men armed with automatic rifles.

● On December 9, 1982, the South African Defence Force launched a cross-border attack which claimed the lives of 42 people in Maseru, 30 of them South African refugees. King Moshoeshoe travelled to New York to place a protest before the United Nations Security Council.

● In 1983 sabotage and assassination attempts on government and security force figures continued. In addition, a political detainee died in prison in Maseru — authorities claimed he had hanged himself with his belt.

● Toward the end of the following year, Solidata Malefane, a prominent businessman and BCP member was assassinated in Maseru, a few kilometres south of Maseru. He was among 12 people who had been charged with high treason earlier in 1984.

● In March 1985, six members of the (South African) Pan Africanist Congress were killed by the Lesotho Paramilitary Force after they had been "mistakenly" identified as members of the LLA.

● November saw the death in detention of Ntshupa Machar, accused of collaborating with the LLA. The prison department said the cause of death was "high blood pressure and cold", but relatives claimed he had head wounds.

● At the end of 1985, nine people — six of them South African refugees — died in the western suburbs of Maseru. South Africa was accused of mounting the attack, but this was denied.

6

● The LLA campaign intensified in 1982. In May, Minister of Agriculture Peete Nkoche Peete was attacked with automatic rifles while driving to church at Bela-Bela in the Berea district. He escaped, but his mother died from wounds sustained in the attack.

All three were found dead in the force. Radio Lesotho did not report the killings until two weeks later, after the British Broadcasting Corporation had publicised them.

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was ruthlessly crushed by police, and the BCP executive — including leader Ntsu Mokhehle — was forced into exile. The homes of several opposition politicians were burnt.

● In 1981, guerrillas of the Lesotho Liberation Army (military wing of the BCP) began to launch occasional attacks on government members and supporters. For the Basotho, the LLA heralded the arrival of another form of *Koeeoko* — the “ugly dogs” or *Ntja tse mpe*. It was alleged that the *Ntja* masterminded assassinations of government opponents.

● In August 1981 the faceless assassins claimed the life of Odilon Seheri, King Moshoeshoe's private secretary, whose charred body was found near Thaba-Putsoa in the Maseru district. He was identified by his ring, as his body and car were burnt beyond recognition.

● Less than a month after Seheri's death, an attack was launched on the home of the chairman of the Lesotho Christian Council, Benard M Masilo. His grandson died in the attack, while Masilo fled to Kenya.

● Three days later, Mahlomola Edgar Motuba, editor of the Lesotho Evangelical Church's fortnightly newspaper, *Leselinyana La Lesotho*, was kidnapped from his home in Morija south of Maseru. Two visitors were taken with him.

The abduction was the work of armed men who identified themselves as members of the Lesotho police

US lecturer goes missing 167

A NOTED American lecturer, Dr Eugene Valberg, who claimed in last Thursday's *Sowetan* that South African blacks were better off under white rule, is now having problems with the students and the academic staff of the National University of Lesotho.

According to sources close to the university, Dr Valberg's house was surrounded by the students at the Roma campus last Friday who demanded his dismissal as a senior lecturer in Philosophy at the university

Since Saturday he has not been seen at the university campus and is believed to have left for South Africa. He has been criticised by several university lecturers for his views

In his article, Dr Valberg claimed that he had taught philosophy at black universities in Nigeria, Kenya and Papua, New Guinea, for the past 12 years. He learned a good deal about Africa and Africans. He said no country in Africa has any record of free and fair elections

Sowetan / 3/4/58

Varsity suspends lecturer

Sowetan
Correspondent

MASERU — A forty-nine-year-old American senior lecturer in philosophy at the National University of Lesotho, Dr Eugene Valberg, has been suspended following an article in the *Sowetan* last Thursday in which he criticised blacks.

Dr Valberg disappeared from his home last weekend after his house was surrounded by students who demanded his expulsion from the university.

He claimed in his letter to the Editor of the *Sowetan* that blacks in South Africa should not agitate for a black-run government as they are better off under white rule.

The university's registrar, Mr MR Likate, said Professor Adamu Baikie, the Vice-Chancellor, had suspended Dr Valberg from his teaching post while arrangements were being made for his "permanent removal".

The university's Academic Staff Association said in a statement last night that Dr Valberg's views demean the dignity of the black race, are morally indefensible sexually and philosophically incorrect and demanded that the university should in future exercise more care in the appointment of its staff members.

Big boys move in on Highlands scheme

By Ian Smith

WORK for SA engineers and construction companies will begin to flow soon from the long-awaited Lesotho Highlands water scheme.

International contractors are establishing a presence in SA and at least two banks, Nedbank and First National, have linked up with foreign partners in bidding for the financial syndication of the project.

However, UK banks Morgan Grenfell & Partners and Standard Chartered Merchant Bank are said to be front-runners.

The Development Bank of Southern Africa signed agreements this week with the Lesotho Highlands Development Authority for three loans totalling R128,6-million for the construction of the Katse bridge and the southern and northern access

roads.

Estimated cost for the three projects is R141,8-million, of which the Lesotho Government has contributed R8,6-million and the SA Government R4,6-million.

The first loan of R3,1-million will be used for the construction of Katse bridge, a key element in access to siteworks for Phase 1 of the project.

Two other loans of R19,5-million and R106-million will go to the cost of the access roads.

Chief executive of the Lesotho Highlands Development Authority Masupha Sole is confident that work on the northern access road will begin on schedule in June.

The loan agreement, he says, will help to remove doubts about the project. It represents strong evidence that the scheme will go ahead as planned.

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Lesotho signs pact for building loan

CAPE TOWN 16/4/88
Political Staff 167

THE Development Bank yesterday signed a R128,6-million loan contract with Lesotho for the Highlands Water Scheme — the first loan it has negotiated beyond the borders of South Africa and the "independent" homelands.

"This is the first formal agreement between the Development Bank and a neighbouring state," Mr Frans van Rensburg, the bank's manager of external relations, said yesterday.

"We are in negotiation with others. The bank has been approached by other countries," Mr Van Rensburg added.

The three loans, which were signed in Maseru yesterday, are for the construction of the Katse Bridge as well as the southern and northern access roads.

The loans, part of the Lesotho Highlands Water Scheme, were signed by the chief executive officer of the Lesotho Highlands Development Authority, Mr Masuphe Sole, and the chief executive of the Development Bank, Dr Simon Brand.

The total estimated cost of these three projects is R141,8m, of which the Lesotho government has contributed R8,6m and the South African government R4,6m

advantage of the impending privatisation
British electricity industry

APP Times 16/4/88 (167)

State of emergency invalid

MASERU — The state of emergency declared by the Chairman of the Military Council of Lesotho, Major-General Metsing Lekhanya, to fight the "worsening crime in the country" was ruled to be null and void by the Chief Justice, Mr Justice Brian Cullinan, in the Lesotho High Court here yesterday.

Reports by Staff Reporter Own Correspondent, Sapa Reuter AP and UPI

Sowetan

MASERU — Leaders of five Lesotho political parties yesterday accused the military government of human rights violations, and called for international pressure to return Lesotho to civilian control. (167)

It was believed to be the strongest civilian criticism of the ruling military council, since Major General Metsing Lekhanye seized power two years ago, after South Africa imposed an economic squeeze against the former civilian government. South Africa surrounds Lesotho 22/4/88

In a statement, the party leaders said there have been "multiple human rights violations" under the military. They urged Amnesty International, the London-based human rights monitor, to investigate.

The statement asked the Organisation of African Unity and some Commonwealth members — including Britain, Canada, Nigeria, Kenya, Australia and Zimbabwe — "to condemn the repressive and authoritarian military dictatorship and put diplomatic pressure on the military council to return to civilian rule."

The parties are the Basotho Democratic Alliance, National Independence Party, United Democratic Party, Basotholand Congress Party and Marematlou Party.

Varsity staff slam Valberg

Sowetan 22/4/88
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THE National University of Lesotho's Academic Staff Association has condemned Dr Eugene Valberg's article in the *Sowetan* which said South African blacks were better off under white rule.

The association called on the university authorities to be more careful in its appointment of staff

Dr Valberg, a senior lecturer in philosophy at the university, has since been suspended pending dismissal

In a statement issued this week, Nulasa said "Valberg's motive to apologise for apartheid is clear from the tenor of his article which appeared on April 7

"And yet he over-reached the latitude allowed for free expression when he branded the black race as essentially thieves and a bunch of corrupt incompetents"

The statement said students had on previous occasions complained about what they termed "racist utterances and distortion of philosophy"

The statement further said "A man so morally bankrupt and backward in outlook is not and cannot be competent to teach a delicate subject that philosophy is"

As a result of the letter, Nulasa held a meeting at which it resolved that the university should issue a statement dissociating itself from Dr Valberg's letter and expel him

Dr Valberg's letter is drawing reactions from all sectors of the community

A FOUR-YEAR-OLD boy was seriously injured when two unidentified men opened fire on the house of a well-known Maseru, Lesotho, lawyer in the early hours of yesterday morning, writes SELLO RABOTHATA. (167)

The lawyer, Mr Goitsehang Gamaga Nthite, who said he was now living in "terrible fear" for his life told of his family's ordeal which started at 2am. He said five adults and three children, including a two-day-old boy, were in the house when the incident took place. They all escaped uninjured, except for his four-year-old son, Selone, who was shot in the head. He was due to be operated on yesterday.

A spokesman for the police in Maseru yesterday confirmed the

incident and said police were investigating. He did not know whether Mr Nthite had requested police protection following the incident.

Mr Nthite said the gunmen concentrated their shooting on the main bedroom and later moved to the children's bedroom. Windows were shattered and furniture in the bedroom riddled with bullet holes.

Mr Nthite, who is a prominent lawyer in Lesotho, said he saw two men during the attack on his home but would not like to disclose any further information for security reasons. He said he requested police protection but was told this would be looked into after the police's return to the police station.

P 15 3014188

Moshoeshoe puts Lesotho under new emergency

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MASERU — The state of emergency in Lesotho, nullified by the High Court two weeks ago, has been reinstated by King Moshoeshoe II

This is in terms of the Emergency Powers Order of 1988 which was legislated by the king and promulgated by him in the latest Lesotho Government Gazette Extraordinary

In his judgement invalidating the state of emergency, the Chief Justice, Mr Brian Cullinan, said the provision

of the Emergency Powers Act of 1982 invoked the powers of three separate authorities — the king, the prime minister and the National Assembly

Mr Cullinan said

"There is no power in any authority under the Emergency Powers Act of 1982 to declare a state of emergency"

The king has counteracted the invalidation of the state of emergency by repealing the Emergency Powers Act of 1982 and replacing it

with the new Emergency Powers Order

The order provides for detention, the removal and expulsion of people from Lesotho and the taking possession or control of any property on behalf of the Lesotho Government

Police may also enter a premises and seize its contents under the new emergency regulations

The emergency would be in force for six months until August 23 — Sapa

Moshoeshoe reinstates state of emergency

167 The Star's Africa
News Service

MASERU — The state of emergency in Lesotho, which was invalidated by the High Court two weeks ago, has been reinstated by King Moshoeshoe II.

Acting under the powers given to him by the Military Council when it took power in 1986, the king reinstated the measure in an Emergency Powers Order published in a Government Gazette Extraordinary.

It has the same effect as the emergency declared on February 25 by the chairman of the Military Council, Major-General Metsing Lekhanya, which was declared invalid by the Chief Justice, Mr Justice Brian Cullinan, on an application by the Law Society of Lesotho.

Star 315758
**Lesotho's
monarch
celebrates**

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Africa News Service

MASERU — King Moshoeshe II's 50th birthday was yesterday celebrated with a colourful ceremonial parade at the Lesotho National Stadium in Maseru

During the celebration King Moshoeshe presented awards for meritorious and long service to members of the armed forces.

The Loyal Order of Ramatseatsana was presented to Minister of State Mr Patrick Molapo and music composer Mr Lloyd Ntsasa. Thousands of people attended the celebration.

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80
80

I never thought things would degenerate to this level, says former Minister *Stey*

Lesotho emergency under fire

9/5/88

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By Patrick Laurence
The Star's Africa News Service

MASERU — The remark was enough to make even a casual visitor prick up his ears.

Standing in a queue at a self-service restaurant in Maseru, a former Cabinet Minister in Chief Leabua Jonathan's ousted regime complained to the man in front of him: "I never thought things would degenerate to a level where lawyers would be arrested for representing alleged criminals in court."

The former Cabinet Minister was hardly an objective observer. He and his deposed colleagues are bitter foes of the new government of General Justin Lekhanya and King Moshoeshoe II, which took power in Lesotho after the coup d'état of January 20 1986.

But a recent Lesotho High Court judgment, in which the state of emergency imposed on 26 February was declared unlawful, provided some justification for his vehement outburst.

In it, the Chief Justice of Lesotho, Mr Justice B P Cullinan, referred to an affidavit from a local advocate, Mr S Phafane, in which the advocate declared that he and two fellow lawyers, Mr G Ntshelhe and Mr K Monau, had been arrested by soldiers and policemen.

"At that stage the legal practitioners were pursuing an application for habeas corpus in re-

spect of a client of theirs, Mr K S Lebabo," the judge said.

Continuing his summary of the affidavit, the judge added that while one of the lawyers, Mr Ntshelhe, was in police custody, his files were taken from his office during a raid on the premises.

When two of the lawyers were released from custody, a police officer reportedly reminded them that "there was a state of emergency" and told them "not to represent people that he called criminals."

Mr Justice Cullinan noted "The Crown filed no papers in opposition. The contents of affidavits before me were uncontested."

The judge went on to find that the state of emergency was unlawful because there was "no power in any authority" under the enabling law, the Emergency Powers Act of 1982, to declare an emergency.

Abuse of human rights

Since then the Lesotho government has issued an edict empowering itself to declare a state of emergency and to reinstate the emergency regulations imposed under the first unlawful state of emergency.

The new state of emergency came into effect on April 26. It has not been challenged in court.

One dimension of the controversy was the de-

posed Minister's comment, another was a strongly worded statement from the Minister of Information, Mr Vincent Malebo, questioning the moral right of members of the former government to protest against abuse of human rights.

Referring to "violations" from opposition party leaders over the High Court judgment declaring the first state of emergency unlawful, Mr Malebo castigated them for having been party to Chief Jonathan's 20-year "repressive regime."

Unlike the state of emergency in South Africa, the Lesotho state of emergency is not directed at politically inspired subversion — it was declared to contain a rise in general crime.

It defines prescribed crimes against which emergency powers can be directed. The prescribed crimes are armed robbery, housebreaking, car theft and stock theft.

Emergency powers include arrest for up to 14 days by police officers acting without a warrant, detention without trial on the orders of the Minister of Defence and Internal Security, and seizure of goods if police suspect they are stolen.

The homes of three prominent Maseru residents were raided shortly after the re-imposition of the state of emergency.

The three residents were Mr Ntshelhe, the lawyer named in the application to the High Court over the first emergency, and Mr T Thulo and Mr C Tsatsanyane, both businessmen.

Fingers have inevitably been pointed at Le-

sotho security forces or rogue elements within them.

Whether the state of emergency will help contain the reported sharp rise in crime is fiercely debated in Lesotho.

Some observers see the increase in crime as a product of the underlying problem of unemployment, a problem that has been exacerbated by a decline in the number of Basotho recruited to work on South African mines after last year's strike on South African mines.

Between the second and last quarters of last year the number of Basotho on South African mines fell from 131 134 to 122 558, according to Lesotho's Central Bank. Since then the number of miners on South African mines has reportedly fallen further to 109 000.

Meanwhile charges that human rights are being abused under the state of emergency are being heard increasingly.

The first state of emergency in post-independent Lesotho was declared by Chief Jonathan in 1970 when he aborted the general election of that year to forestall defeat at the polls and to seize power.

The Basotho referred to that emergency as the *Qornatsi* — a word that had previously been used to describe the worst disaster known to them: an anthrax epidemic.

Basotho are today beginning to use the same word about General Lekhanya's emergency.

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Lesotho's state of emergency

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FOCUS

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The reimposition of

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Rogue

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GENERAL Lekhanya

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Political comment in this issue by Aggrey Klaaste and Joe Thlooe. Sub-editing, headlines and posters by Sydney Matlhaku. All of 61 Commando Road, Industria West Johannesburg

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Row rages over the emergency in Lesotho

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REC'D
10/5/88

The Argus Africa News Service reports from Maseru

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Nocturnal attack

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Inevitably fingers have been pointed at Lesotho security forces, or rogue elements within them, as they are the men most likely to be in possession of automatic rifles.

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Some observers see the increase in crime as a product of the underlying problem of unemployment, a problem which has been exacerbated by a decline in the number of Basotho recruited to work on South African mines after last year's large-scale strike.

Recruitment decline

Data compiled by the Central Bank of Lesotho point to a decline in recruitment of Basotho, many of whom are highly skilled miners and some of whom hold middle and even top-level leadership positions in South Africa's militant National Union of Mineworkers.

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The reputation of General Lekhanya's military Government is not advanced by its failure to hold inquests on the deaths in detention shortly after the coup of Brigadier B M Ramotsekhoabe and Colonel Sechalbo Sechalbo, two officers who opposed the coup.

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Lesotho is economically dependent on South Africa

MASERU — More than two years after they seized power in Lesotho the military show no signs of handing it back to the civilians as they promised they would

Some Basotho think the soldiers have acquired such a liking for power that they are reluctant to give it up

They believe the military leaders have grown so fond of riding around in flag-bedecked limousines with motor-cycle escorts, of directing the affairs of the nation, of political jet-setting, that they cannot bring themselves to go back to the simpler life of the barracks

The military leaders insist however that they still intend to keep their promise to return power to the civilians

New constitution

But they cannot do so they say, until the civilians are ready to receive it, until a suitable political structure is in place to exercise the power

By this they appear to mean that there should be a new constitution and reasonable certainty that there will not be an immediate resumption of the party political feuding that plagued the country until the military overthrew prime minister Leabua Jonathan's government in January, 1986

However, leaders of the major parties that were opposing Chief Jonathan's Basotho National Party before the coup accuse the military of dragging their feet in producing a new constitution. In any case, some of them say, a new constitution is unnecessary

All that is needed, in their view, is for the military to restore the 1966 independence constitution and install a multi-party government of national unity that would rule by consensus pending elections for a new government

In addition, some of the opposition politicians favour the abolition of the monarchy, or at least its restriction to the same non-political role as is filled by the British royalty

These views bring the politicians onto delicate ground, for the monarchy as an institution is widely respected among the Basotho, who revere King Moshoeshoe I as the founder of the nation

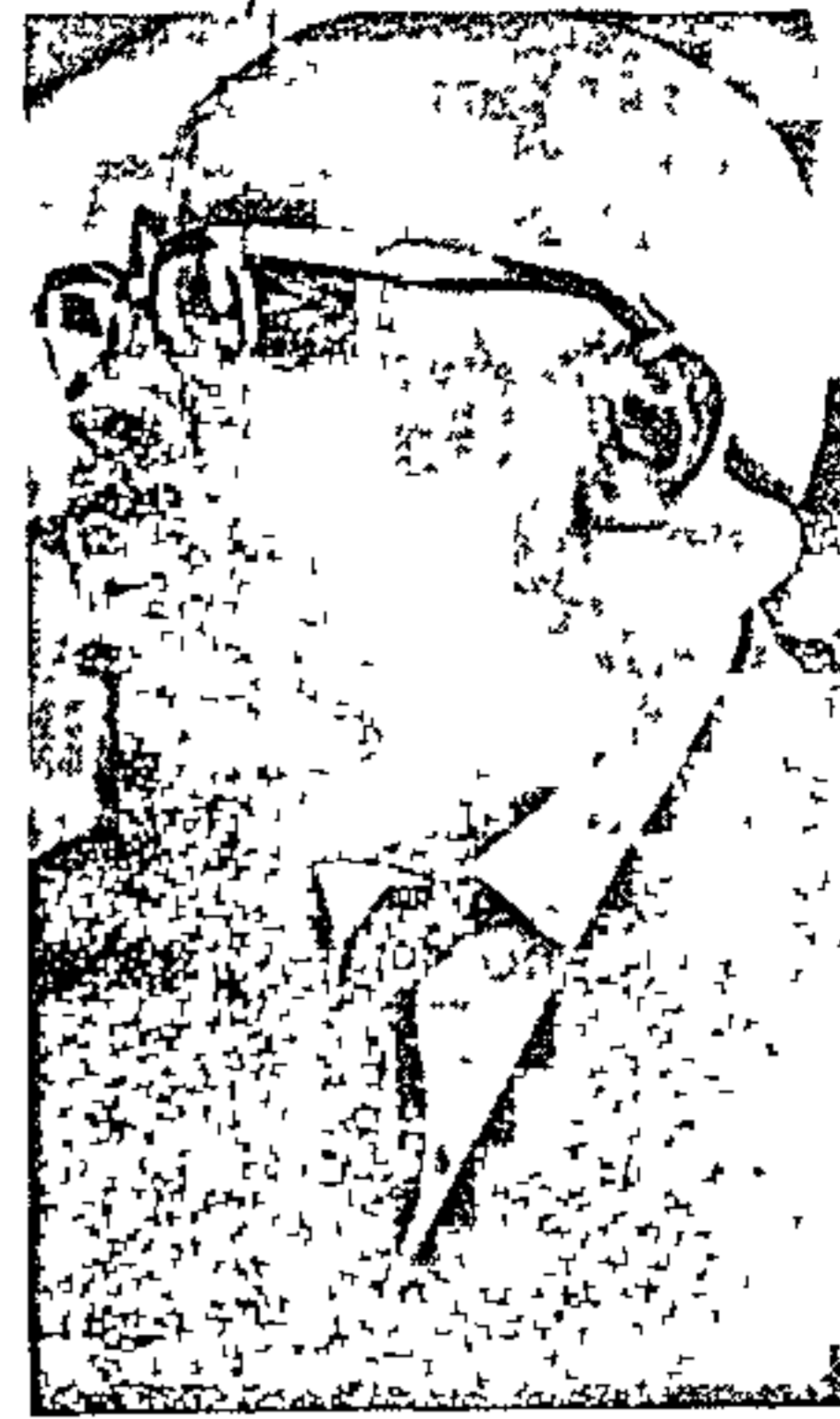
There is less unanimity among the Basotho, however, over the present occupant of the throne King Moshoeshoe II, who was given executive and legislative powers by the military immediately after the coup

Previously he had been kept out of politics for 20 years by prime minister Jonathan after losing a power struggle with him immediately after independence

The king is widely regarded as a politically-minded and ambitious man who would be reluctant to abstain from political activity. Among certain opposition politicians there is a suspicion that Moshoeshoe



KING Moshoeshoe . . . given executive powers



CHIEF Jonathan Cabinet colleagues murdered

A bitter pill to swallow



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shoe is more interested in political power than in the throne

Other than the king's obvious interest in politics there is no hard evidence, however, that he cherishes wider personal ambitions

In government offices the king's portrait hangs on the walls together with that of the chairman of the military council, Major General Metsing Lekhanya, but the general is reputed to remain in overall control of the government

Sympathy

This view persists despite the presence on the military council of officers said to be close to the king and the recent appointment of one of them, Colonel Thaabe Letsie, as foreign minister

King Moshoeshoe's reputed sympathy for the African National Congress of South Africa has not prevented the military government from continuing severely to restrict the activities of the ANC in Lesotho

Since the coup South Africa has considerably improved its position in the country. Partly as a

consequence of the removal of the anti-South African Chief Jonathan, the long-postponed Lesotho highlands water project has gone ahead and this in turn has led to the opening of formal relations between South Africa and Lesotho at trade mission level

South African aid to Lesotho has become more concrete, notably through the building near Maseru of a military hospital, which is said to be partly staffed by South African medical personnel

Suggestions that Lesotho has become little more than a South African satellite since the coup are denied by government leaders who reiterate the essential pragmatism of their stance

This amounts to making the best of a bad situation, of living with the unpleasant but inescapable reality of Lesotho's economic dependence on its encircling neighbour maintaining as much independence as is realistically possible while taking advantage of what can be gained

from the association. Nearly 18 months after two former ministers in the Jonathan government, Mr Desmond Sixishe and Mr Vincent Makhele, and their wives were kidnapped and murdered by uniformed men there has been no inquest into their deaths, despite the fact that a third man survived the massacre and reported to the police

The suspicion widely expressed in Maseru that the military government was somehow involved will obviously persist until the converse is demonstrated

Little public criticism of the military government is heard but it is difficult to discern whether this is because there is general public acceptance of its measures or because of fear

The military know, sources say, that the people will start getting impatient if they see no progress towards a return to constitutional government



THE Sowetan today remembers journalists around the country who are in detention
• Zwelakhe Sisulu, Editor of the New Nation, who has been in detention under the emergency regulations for 509 days,
• Brian Sokutu, Eastern Cape freelance

Call to avoid civil war in ^{SA} Lesotho ^{12/5/88}

The Star's
Africa News Service

MASERU. — The leaders of Lesotho's five opposition parties have called on Major-General Justin Lekhanya's military government to preserve peace and not precipitate civil war in the country.

In a statement, the opposition politicians, who style themselves the Big Five, also called on the ruling Military Council to lift the ban on party political activity to enable urgent talks to be held on the future of the country with the political parties, heads of churches, and traditional chiefs.

"We have been shocked by the outrageous attack launched against the heads of the churches by Colonel Sekhobe Letsie," (a member of the Military Council), the statement said, referring to the decision announced last week to suspend dialogue with the churches.

The churches had called for talks with the exiled Lesotho politician, Mr Ntsu Mokhehle.

The Big Five's statement rejected the government's claim that the churches and the politicians had divided the Basotho nation.

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Exiled Basotho want to come home

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The Star's Africa
News Service

MASERU — Talks aimed at bringing members of the banned Lesotho Liberation Army (LLA) back into Lesotho, were held here this week.

They were attended by senior members of the Lesotho Government and the Basutoland Congress Party (BCP).

The party's leader Mr Ntsu Mokhehle — who also once led the LLA — is in exile.

BCP delegation head Mr Steve Motlamelle said four of his delegation have been living in exile and had been active members of the LLA which had waged a small guerilla campaign against the ousted government of Chief Leabua Jonathan.

He said Mr Mokhehle's greatest concern was the rehabilitation of about 500 of his supporters in exile.

Many of their homes had been destroyed and land confiscated.

Lesotho opposition chief is back home

MASERU — The leader of the Lesotho's main opposition Basutoland Congress Party (BCP), Mr Netsu Mokhehle, has come home after 14 years to hold talks with the country's military rulers to prepare for the return of hundreds of members of his party from exile.

A Lesotho government spokesman said Mr. Mokhehle held peace talks with a member of the military council, Colonel Sekhobe Letsie — Sapa.

MOKHEHE GOES

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BACK TO LESOTHO

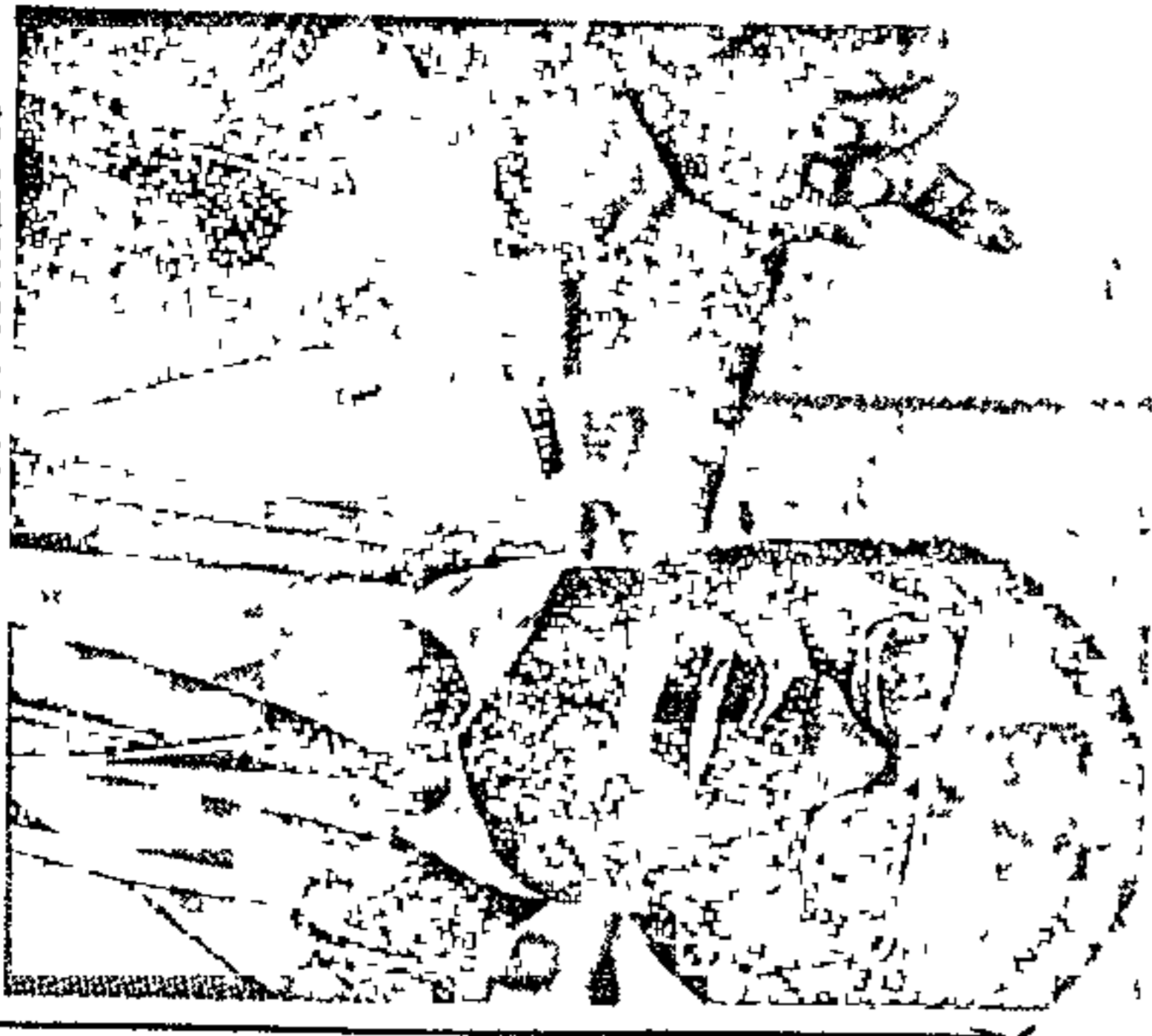
MASERU — The exiled leader of Lesotho's Liberation Army and of the Basutoland Congress Party, Mr Ntsu Mokhehe, returned home on Friday for the first time in 14 years for surprise talks with the country's military authorities.

It is now widely believed that Mr Mokhehe, who led an armed campaign against the deposed government of Prime Minister, Chief Leabua Jonathan, will be returning to Lesotho permanently.

SOWETAN Africa News Service

He flew into Maseru from South Africa shortly after lunch on Friday and returned two hours later after talks with a member of the military council, Colonel Selhobe Letсие, at the

offices of the military council in the capital. Radio Lesotho said Mr Mokhehe held talks with



Mr Ntsu Mokhehe... back in Lesotho.

Colonel Letсие on issues of peace and reconciliation and the speedy return of all exiled BCP members.

The broadcast said the colonel, in his talks with Mr Mokhehe, expressed gratitude that they were meeting on Lesotho soil as against their first meeting held in a foreign country. It gave no other details about this first meeting.

Colonel Letсие assured Mr Mokhehe that the military government was ready to welcome him and all his followers back

After 14 years in exile

into Lesotho as soon as all necessary arrangements for their speedy return had been completed.

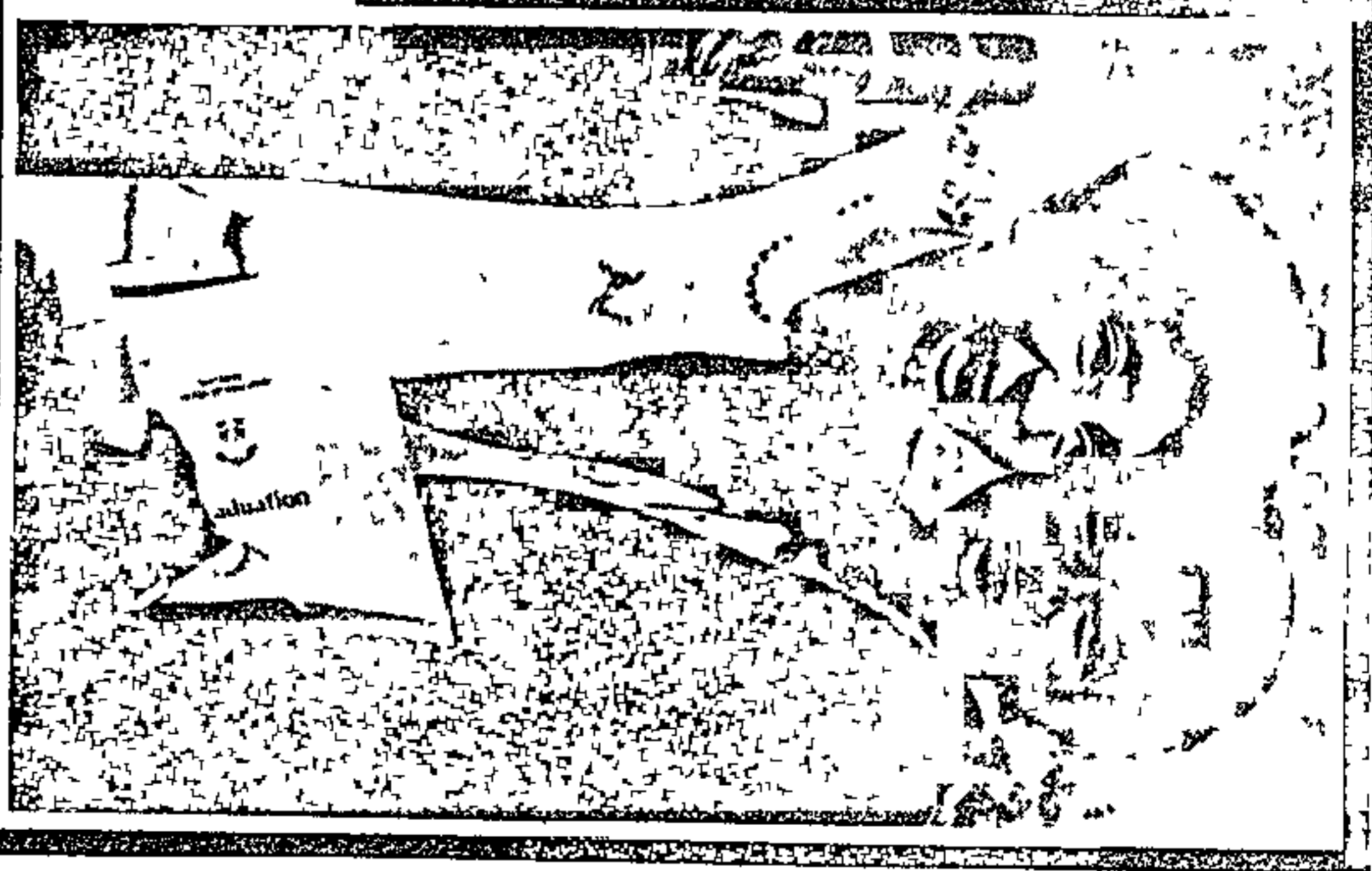
Security

Mr Mokhehe was told that his personal security and that of his followers would be guaranteed and that they had nothing to fear if indeed they came back to Lesotho "in a true spirit of peace."

In his reply, Mr Mokhehe said he was thankful that he had for

the first time after many years been afforded the opportunity to come back to his country of birth and to discuss peace and reconciliation both on his own behalf and of that of his followers

MISS Maria Mohlala (left) and Miss Lucia Mbatla were presented with teachers diplomas at the weekend in Kwa-Thema, Springs. See Page 5.



World-famous GERAVIN ZA

MENTHOL FRESH TASTE

Major contract for LTA

STE 25/5/88 (167)
The first major contract in the multi-billion rand Highlands Water Project has been awarded to LTA Construction in Lesotho.

The Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA) has accepted LTA's R97 million tender to construct the first section of the access road which will lead to the Katse Dam.

LTA's tender was the lowest submitted and construction on the 56km stretch of road will start within a month, says the company's group technical director, Tony Hallier.

The LHDA has already awarded two other contracts to companies in the LTA group.

LTA Construction (Lesotho) is busy with a R2,3 million contract for the construction of a steel bridge near the dam site.

Also, Ground Engineering and Piling, a joint venture with Rodio, has been awarded a R7,7 million contract for the final geotechnical investigations at the Katse Dam site and along the transfer tunnel which will deliver water to Lesotho's planned hydropower plant at Muela. — Sapa.

Lesotho exiles may come home. But politics is out

THE Lesotho military government will form a joint committee to co-ordinate the return of political exiles but will maintain its ban on political activities.

Exiled Basotho Congress Party leader Ntsu Mokhehle and his followers will be welcome to return, said Colonel Sekhobe Letsie, who chaired a meeting in Maseru on Friday between the government and a six-man BCP delegation which included Mokhehle.

Steve Motlamelle, one of the few BCP central committee members who did not go into exile, told *Weekly Mail* the parties agreed during the Friday talks to establish a committee of 10 people (five from each side) to co-ordinate the return of all political exiles.

In the Friday talks the BCP delegation consisted of Mokhehle, three Lesotho Liberation Army commanders, Steve Motlamelle and Molapo Qhobela, former BCP representative in London. Motlamelle also led the delegation which met government officials last Tuesday.

The government was represented by senior officials from both the civilian and security services — including the military council — and acting government secretary Tom Thabane. The commanders of the Royal Lesotho Defence Force, the Royal Lesotho Mounted Police and the Royal Lesotho Intelligence Services were also present.

Letsie told *Weekly Mail* the initiative for Mokhehle's return was taken

Exiled Lesotho opposition leaders, who have waged guerrilla war since the early eighties, have been allowed back. But politics is out, say the military rulers.
By MZIMKULU MALUNGA

by the military "immediately after it had assumed power by publishing an amnesty order for all those who have been at variance with the toppled regime."

He said he held talks with Mokhehle in 1986 "and if I can recall correctly he met His Excellency Major-General Metsing Lekhanya in 1987". Letsie did not indicate where the talks were held, though it was clear that they were not held in Lesotho.

He said the exiled Basotho wanted their security guaranteed by the military government both as a group and as individuals. Asked where Mokhehle had come from for the talks, he said "I tried to ask him but he told me he came from 'Likhohlong' (deep gullies), as he usually says".

Letsie said the BCP leader left the country again after the Friday talks to "report back to his followers and also to participate in the repatriation process". Meanwhile the government will work on ways to bring the exiles home and "their smooth movement into their individual villages".

Mokhehle, most of his top officials and hundreds of followers went into

exile in the early months of 1974 after an abortive coup attempt which was crushed by Chief Leabua Jonathan through his Police Mobile Unit (later renamed Lesotho Paramilitary Force), leaving several people dead. Some opposition members' homes were destroyed.

The Lesotho Liberation Army started waging its guerrilla war in the early 1980s. Its appearance marked the start of a series of assassinations of government officials and counter-assassinations by the Jonathan government in which hundreds of people lost their lives.

Life in exile was not easy for Mokhehle and his party. In 1976 the executive committee split into two factions. Five men distanced themselves from his leadership and this led to confusion amongst members and a split within the party itself.

Letsie said the government would "do all in its power to see that what belonged to these people and to others before them is duly returned to them".

He said his government has already asked the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to help with programmes that will meaningfully re-settle all Basotho who left that country because of the "atrocities of the Leabua (Jonathan) regime".

Motlamelle said a series of talks preceded last week's meeting; the earlier discussions involved church leaders who acted as a bridge between the government and the BCP.

More than two years after they seized power in Lesotho the military show no signs of keeping their promise to hand it back to the civilians

Some Basotho think the soldiers have acquired such a liking for power that they are reluctant to give it up

The military leaders insist, however, that they still intend to return power to the civilians. But they cannot do so, they say, until the civilians are ready to receive it, until a suitable political structure is in place to exercise the power

By this they appear to mean that there should be a new constitution and reasonable certainty that there will not be an immediate resumption of the party political feuding that plagued the country until the military overthrew Prime Minister Leabua Jonathan's government in January 1986

Foot-dragging?

However, leaders of the major parties that were opposing Chief Jonathan's Basotho National Party before the coup accuse the military of dragging their feet in producing a new constitution. In any case, some of them say, a new constitution is unnecessary

All that is needed, in their view, is for the military to restore the 1966 independence constitution and install a multiparty government of national unity that would rule by consensus pending elections for a new government

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Lesotho's military leaders in no hurry to hand over power

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spected among the Basotho, who revere King Moshoeshoe I as the founder of the nation.

There is less unanimity among the Basotho, however, over the present occupant of the throne, King Moshoeshoe II, who was given executive and legislative powers by the military immediately after the coup. Previously he had been kept out of politics for 20 years by Prime Minister Jonathan after losing a power struggle with him immediately after independence

The king is widely regarded as a politically-minded and ambitious man who would be reluctant to abstain from political activity. Among certain opposition politicians there is a suspicion that Moshoeshoe is more interested in political power than in the throne

Other than the king's obvious interest in politics there is no hard evidence, however, that he cherishes wider personal ambitions.

In government offices the king's portrait hangs on the walls with that of the chairman of the Military Council, Major General Metsing Lekhanya, but the general is reputed to remain in overall control of the government. This view persists despite the presence on the Military Council of officers said to be close to the king and the recent appointment of one of them, Colonel Thaabe Letsie, as Foreign Minister

King Moshoeshoe's reputed sym-

The government continues to severely restrict the activities of the ANC even though King Moshoeshoe (right) is reputed to be sympathetic towards the organisation, writes Gerald L'Ange, editor of The Star's Africa News Service, in this report from Maseru.

pathy for the African National Congress of South Africa has not prevented the military government from continuing severely to restrict the activities of the ANC in Lesotho

Since the coup South Africa has considerably improved its position in the country. Partly as a consequence of the removal of the anti-South African Chief Jonathan, the long-postponed Lesotho Highlands Water Project has gone ahead and this in turn has led to the opening of formal relations between South Africa and Lesotho at trade mission level

South African aid to Lesotho has become more concrete, notably through the building near Maseru of a military hospital, which is said to be partly staffed by South African medical personnel.

Suggestions that Lesotho has become little more than a South African satellite since the coup are denied by government leaders, who reiterate the essential pragmatism of their stance. This amounts to making the best of a bad situation, of living with the unpleasant but inescapable reality of Lesotho's economic dependence on its encircling neighbour and maintaining as much independence as is realistically possible while taking advantage of what can be gained from the association

Thus while accepting the benefits of the Lesotho Highlands project, the Maseru government has resisted South African pressure for the estab-

lishment of diplomatic relations at full ambassadorial level and, according to some accounts, for the expulsion of the communist country diplomats allowed in by Chief Jonathan. General Lekhanya's government has virtually frozen relations with North Korea, which was accused of internal interference in Jonathan's time, but the Soviet and Chinese embassies have continued unhampered

If the opposition politicians are unhappy with the military, there is little evidence in Maseru that this feeling is shared with much intensity by the general populace

Independent observers give the military government credit for substantial achievements. It is said to have restored a large measure of tranquillity to the country and tackled its social and economic problems with vigour

The fear that pervaded the country when the bully-boys of the BNP Youth League swaggered around the country armed with AK47s seems largely to have gone, although opposition politicians insist people are still being bullied by police and soldiers and some are still being detained without trial and even tortured and killed without it ever being reported by the government radio

Little public criticism of the military government is heard but it is difficult to discern whether this is because there is general public acceptance of its measures or because of

fear

The opposition political groups who have united under the banner of "The Big Five" openly opposed the government's imposition of a state of emergency last month and publicly welcomed the invalidation of the measure by the High Court on an application by the Law Society of Lesotho

The opposition groups rejected the reasons advanced by the government for the measure that it was needed to combat the increase in crime

According to government sources, it was not so much petty crime the authorities were thinking of but organised crime, especially vehicle theft, involving some people in legal circles in Lesotho

The Big Five's jubilation over the invalidation of the first state of emergency was short-lived, for the government simply imposed another one with different legal underpinnings

Councils set up

The military are said to have already taken the first steps towards creating a publicly accountable political structure by setting up rural councils. The next step is the establishment of municipal authorities and the first elections are due to be held in Maseru in September. Ultimately a National Advisory Council will be created

The precise purpose of the advisory council still seems somewhat vague but according to government officials it will advise the government not only on the conduct of the nation's affairs on an interim basis but also on the writing of a new constitution

Government spokesmen still maintain, as they did shortly after the coup, that their intention is to involve the people directly in the shaping of the constitution and the system of government it will provide for

If there is doubt about whether the military intend to go back to the barracks, Basotho in general are for the present giving them the benefit of the doubt

According to the government's critics, time is running out on the soldiers. But it does not yet appear not be running out very fast.

Year	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988
13	165	12 058	14 551	13 174	12 944	12 603	13 138	12 840	12 594	12 899	12 814	14 644
27	632	29 533	31 650	29 832	29 610	29 048	30 472	31 390	30 632	29 673	29 879	

ONS AP CURRENT PERIODS

SA celebrates in Lesotho

Sowetan 26/88
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2000

MASERU — South Africans celebrated Republic Day for the first time on Lesotho soil at a reception attended by Lesotho Cabinet Ministers and members of the diplomatic corps at a leading Maseru hotel last night.

The reception was hosted by South Africa's trade representative in Lesotho, Mr Ghemus Geidenhuys, and the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Kobus Meiring.

Proposing a toast to the health of King Moshoeshoe II, the

SOWETAN Africa News Service

Government and people of Lesotho, Mr Meiring said it was important for Lesotho and South Africa to co-operate and work together as neighbours.

Bridges

He said it was also significant that the two countries had exchanged trade missions and that Lesotho had recently assigned its first trade commissioner to Johannesburg.

Mr Meiring said it was important for South

Africa to build bridges of friendship and co-operation with her neighbouring states like Lesotho and Swaziland.

He also mentioned the South African Government's plans to reactivate the Cahora Bassa scheme in Mozambique.

In reply Lesotho's acting Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Vincent Malebo, said South Africa had an obligation to play a part in the fight for peace in the sub-region.

Pope's costly visit

By MZIKAYISE
EDOM

MORE than two million people are expected to attend the Papal visit to Lesotho in September.

The three-day visit (September 14-16) by Pope John Paul II, will cost the Lesotho Catholic Bishops Conference about R5-million.

Addressing a Press conference in Johannesburg on Wednesday, Bishop Paul Khoarai, president of the LCBC, said "We have embarked on several fundraising projects to cover the costs of the Papal visit to Lesotho."

Bishop Khoarai said several South African companies had shown interest towards sponsoring the visit.

He said "We are also going to sell franchise rights on merchandise, such as T-shirts, caps and many other products commemorating the Pope's visit to our country."

POPE John Paul II.

Bishop Khoarai said that the money will be used, among other things, for the upgrading of roads, provision of extra water, electricity and sanitary facilities.

The Pope will be in Southern Africa from September 10-19. This is the first visit by a Pope to Southern Africa. He will not visit South Africa for political reasons.

During his tour, which will be covered by about 300 local and foreign journalists, he will also visit Zimbabwe, Botswana, Swaziland and Mozambique.

"The highlight of his trip will take place in Lesotho when he beautifies pioneer missionary Father Joseph Garard, the first Catholic missionary in Lesotho.

Father Gerard died in 1914 at the age of 83.

Rural Protest, Lesotho-style

P L Bonner reviews *Prophets With Honour, a documentary history of Lekhotla la Bafo* by Robert Edgar (Ravan Press).

TINY and impoverished though Lesotho is, its very existence as an independent state stands as a monument to the protracted and often desperate struggles of its inhabitants to protect themselves against the successive onslaught of Boer settlers, the Cape Colony and the Union of South Africa.

Parts of that struggle have excited considerable scholarly attention. The skilful nation building and diplomacy of Lesotho's statesman/founder, Moshoeshe I, in the 19th century, for example, has been chronicled in rich and absorbing detail.

Basutoland's zestful participation in the market economy of late 19th century South Africa has likewise been closely studied, as has its subsequent economic strangulation between 1900-1930. The political history of 20th century Lesotho, by contrast, has been much less well served. Robert Edgar's 240-page *Prophets With Honour* (documentary and commentary on Lekhotla la Bafo (The Council of the Commoners), which featured prominently in the politics of Lesotho from the 1920s to the 1960s, therefore comes as a timely and welcome addition to the literature.

Restructured

Though set in Basutoland, Edgar's study yields insights into the responses of rural societies across southern Africa which were being subject to an abrupt and often brutal restructuring to fit them into a sub-continental migrant labour system.

On the surface these responses often appear aimlessly eclectic and sometimes contradictory or perverse. However, as Edgar's collection shows, there existed a powerful underlying logic in these rural migrant cultures which enabled them both to adjust to, and to oppose the demands of the new order.

Edgar demonstrates that two central imperatives guided Lekhotla la Bafo's (hereafter LIB) action —

the preservation of Basotho chieftainship, and the defence of Basotho sovereignty. For LIB the institution of Basotho chieftaincy stood at the centre of Basotho culture and held the key to Basotho unity. It followed, from this perspective, that those seeking to subvert Basotho unity would first seek to weaken its central pillar — Basotho chieftaincy. In LIB's view, this was what the combined pressures of British colonial administration, Christian missions, and the European trading community, had gone a long way towards achieving in the early 20th century.

Since the exclusion of commoner representation from the national council (Pitso) by the British in 1903, LIB believed, the chiefs had become more and more a tool of alien and subversive influences and less and less accountable to commoner opinion. Chiefs levied excessive fines, abused their rights to communal labour, and usurped the weak and defenceless (notably widows).

Pressures

As in many other rural communities in southern Africa, however, LIB's solution was not to sweep away the institution, but rather to seek commoner representation on national councils, which would restrain chiefly abuse and maintain Basotho unity against mounting internal and external pressures. Both the ideology and the strategy of LIB thus exhibited two apparently contradictory strains: an uncompromising defence of Basotho chieftainship, and vituperative attacks on individual chiefs (notably the Paramount Chief Griffiths).

Although LIB looked back to a golden age of unfarmed chieftainship, it was not blinkered by a narrow-minded and backward looking traditionalism. On the contrary, as Edgar shows, it actively sought access to the education and technology it believed the western world had to offer.

Other key targets of LIB were

As with the chieftainship, however, LIB did not advocate a wholesale rejection of Christianity. Its leaders unequivocally endorsed the Nicene creed and emphatically agreed that "Jesus died for us." What they repudiated was "the commercialisation of Christianity by heartless missionaries who adopt it as the easiest means of fooling and robbing other people out of their land" (p91).

These ambivalent attitudes characterised LIB's response to all aspects of colonial administration. Individual officials could be denounced as "Angels of Destruction", but the support of the metropolitan government was still solicited and cherished. At least part of the reason, as Edgar explains, was that by no means groundless fear that Britain might acquiesce in the incorporation of the Protectorates into the Union of South Africa if she were subject to too fierce a local attack on her administrative record.

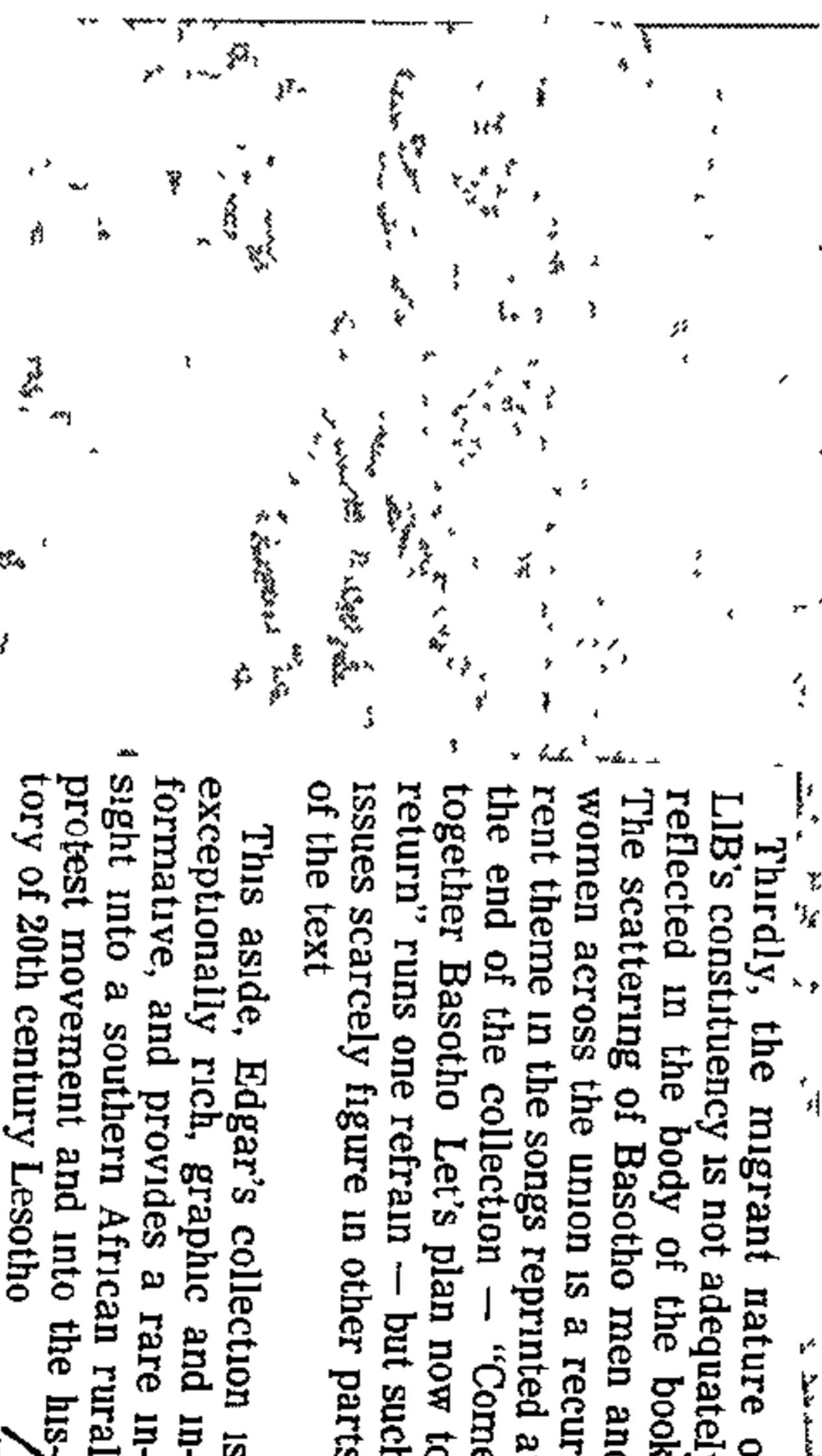
LIB's "traditionalist" character was also qualified in a number of other directions. Josia Lefela, for example, displayed remarkable erudition in his speeches defending Basotho sovereignty and custom (citing, for example, the Encyclopaedia Biblica to demonstrate that the verse of Mark 16 reading "Go ye to the Nations and preach to them" was a later interpolation) (p97).

Modernisation

Together with the rest of LIB's leadership he also established close contact with the Communist Party of South Africa, as a means of publicising the Basotho commoners' plight. Finally, the council's rank and file membership were not just simple peasants, but also migrant labourers, whose own experience generated a highly syncretic consciousness and an impulse towards selective modernisation.

It is in respect that three limitations of Edgar's otherwise admirable study may be noted. Firstly, with one exception of nine pages, it is the voice of the LIB's leadership that is recorded, and not its rank and file.

Secondly, the concentration of its support in the north of Lesotho is never explained.



Lesotho shrewd statesmanship ensured its continued independence in the face of several external threats

consequently the colonial administration, the missionaries and the traders which it saw as deliberately withholding the fruits of western civilisation in order to maintain Basutoland as an impoverished, stagnant migrant labour pool. The missionaries in particular — "the thin end of the wedge that split our unity" — were singled out for attack. One of the principle grievances of LIB was that having detached many Basotho from traditional customs and beliefs, the missionaries refused to equip them with the

Thirdly, the migrant nature of LIB's constituency is not adequately reflected in the body of the book. The scattering of Basotho men and women across the union is a recurrent theme in the songs reprinted at the end of the collection — "Come together Basotho! Let's plan now to return" runs one refrain — but such issues scarcely figure in other parts of the text.

This aside, Edgar's collection is exceptionally rich, graphic and informative, and provides a rare insight into a southern African rural protest movement and into the history of 20th century Lesotho.

education and expertise necessary to compete in the new world into which they had been thrust.

"They have taken from us the clothing we used to wear," wrote LIB to President Josiah Lefela in a biting indictment of colonial and missionary behaviour, "but they refuse to teach us to make the garments which they accustomed us to. These have to be bought ready-made, so that we may be of profit to their home people and that of their traders" (p71).

SA business eyes water project

Lesotho set to become one of Africa's rich

THE Lesotho Highlands water project, due for completion in 1995, is set to lift Lesotho from one of the world's 50 least-developed countries to one of the highest per capita earners in Africa.

SA Foreign Trade Organisation (Safto) Africa International division manager David Muirhead said there was an increasing interest by SA businessmen to become involved in all aspects of the project.

Safto was part-organiser of last week's conference on Lesotho and the project, at which 150 businessmen from both countries had discussions on the development possibilities afforded by the project.

There had been a reluctance by Lesotho companies to capitalise on the opportunities afforded by the project.

Muirhead said this was partly understandable if one considered some of the foreign companies involved had a turnover several times higher than the country's GDP.

DIANNA GAMES

"The project is the biggest thing to ever happen to Lesotho and it should be used to raise the commercial sophistication of the whole country."

The country stood to gain R50m a year in revenue alone from SA for its use of the scheme and save R10m in fees to Eskom.

Lesotho's total exports last year totalled R77,5m while its imports, mostly from SA, totalled R870m.

Apart from major infrastructural input surrounding the actual project, the spin-off benefits were enormous.

Muirhead said there appeared to be a general lack of information on the project in terms of tenders, key people and the time scale for different facets.

SA investment in Lesotho to date had been hampered by a political hangover and the fact that its small domestic market meant business locating there would have to be export-orientated.

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B/day

14/6/88

Lesotho gets R33-m (167)
MASERU — The United States
Government is to grant Lesotho R33
million for agricultural development, in
terms of an agreement signed yesterday
by the American Ambassador Mr Robert
Smalley and Lesotho's Economic Affairs
Minister Dr Michael Sefaly. — Sapa.

Organisers of papal visit gear up for pilgrims

By Winnie Graham

(167)

The governments of Lesotho and South Africa have started negotiating on how to smooth the way for the tens of thousands of pilgrims expected to cross the borders between the two countries for Pope John Paul's visit in September.

The Lesotho Papal Visit Office has indicated that more than a million people are expected in Maseru for the beatification of southern Africa's first saint, Father Joseph Gerard. Most of these people will be coming from South Africa and, unless alternative arrangements can be made, will probably require passports.

This is just one of many problems facing the Lesotho Papal Visit Office. It is considering how to get the thousands of people across the narrow border bridges between Maseru and Ficksburg in time for the beatification

service. A series of passport offices is envisaged on the South African side.

Accommodation and food have been two other major areas of concern but both the housing of visitors and the provision of meals is now virtually under control. Tent towns are being opened, their homes to visitors, and a giant food company has undertaken to provide millions of ready-cooked meals. Tankers will be providing supplies of additional water.

Mr Andreas Moshoeshe, the man responsible for planning, said this week that despite the many impediments, his office had the organisation well in hand and he expected the visit to be both memorable and pleasant for the huge crowds.

"Reports that anything from between three and five million people will be coming to Lesotho are exaggerated," he said. "We are planning, in co-operation with the various dioceses in South Africa, to accommodate a million plus, half of whom will be able to attend the beatification Mass at the Maseru racecourse."

He said Lesotho had approached the SA Government to make passport requirements simpler for the pilgrims.

SHUTTLE BUS SERVICE

It was possible that people arriving by bus or car would have to leave their vehicles on the Free State side. At this stage it seemed probable they would have to cross the border by foot but a shuttle bus service between the border post, the town and the racecourse would circulate continuously.

"An unlimited number of people will not be able to attend the beatification service," he added. "The field will be divided into 100 blocks, each of

which will accommodate about 5 000 people. We are erecting giant TV screens at various venues in Maseru so that pilgrims who cannot be placed there will not be totally denied the opportunity of seeing the Holy Father."

Mr Moshoeshe said it was imperative that the various dioceses in South Africa inform the Papal Visit Office in Maseru of the numbers expected from the various parishes so that adequate space could be allocated to them.

He advised non-Catholics hoping to see the pope to join a Catholic parish so that they, too, would be guaranteed a space at the service.

"The pope's visit is a great pastoral event and is generating considerable excitement in Lesotho. I know South Africans are disappointed. His Holiness will not be visiting their country but we hope we can make up to them by sharing the pope's visit with them."

Lesotho awaits . . .

Pope's visit

Sowetan
23/6/88
(167)

MASERU — Shepherds tend their flocks in Lesotho's harsh Biblical landscape, but in this impoverished corner of Southern Africa miracles are hard to find

So when Pope John Paul comes here in September, Lesotho will have to turn to its giant neighbour South Africa for help in coping with a massive influx of pilgrims

When the Pope celebrates mass in Maseru on September 15, the stage on which he stands and the microphone that will carry his message to a crowd of up to two million will both come from South Africa

The South African army may even be called in to throw pontoon bridges across the Caledon River to prevent chaos at the single narrow border crossing outside Lesotho's capital Maseru

"It is going to be really very difficult, I am not ashamed to say that," Colonel Sekhobe Letsie, a member of Lesotho's ruling six-man Military Council, said

Miners

At peak holiday times the bridge carries up to 100 000 people a day, mostly Basotho miners returning from South Africa to their mountainous homeland, which is encircled by and almost totally dependent economically on South Africa

South African officials say the border bridge could theoretically cope with 180 000 people in 24 hours

But at this rate it would take two million pilgrims more than 10 days to enter Lesotho and another 10 days to leave

The local church organisers are planning for 1.5 million people but say this could easily become two million

"It's anybody's guess," the church's co-ordinator for the visit, Bishop Ignatius Phakoe, said in a recent interview

He said Lesotho's Bureau of Statistics had been called in to draw up a more scientific estimate of the likely crowd

But in South Africa itself there are some who doubt whether the expected crowds will in fact turn up

Archbishop Denis Hurley of Durban said he would be in Maseru but he would be surprised if more than a few thousand other South African Catholics made the journey

The visit to Lesotho will be the highpoint of Pope John Paul's Southern African tour, which will take him to Zimbabwe, Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland and Mozambique from September 10 to September 19

Mixed

The tour does not include South Africa — a Vatican decision which has left South African Catholics with mixed feelings

On the outskirts of Maseru the Pope will conduct an open air service for the beatification of Father Joseph Gerard, a 19th Century French missionary who brought Catholicism here

The huge open space, ringed by spectacular sandstone cliffs, is occasionally used as a racecourse and as a firing range by the Lesotho Army



POPE John Paul II gave communion to a young Zairean girl in Kisangani. She is wearing her hair in the popular pointilist style of central and west Africa.

But most of the time it is just another grazing area for cattle

The Lesotho church has also approached South African companies to sell pre-packed food to the crowds, offering them attractive advertising and sponsorship deals in exchange

The church expects a bill of R5,5 million rand while the Lesotho Government is responsible for organising water, sanitation and tented camps for the pilgrims

Tents

Areas have already been earmarked around Maseru, while the tents themselves are likely to come from South Africa

If the Pope speaks out against Pretoria's apartheid racial segregation policies, the sound and video system that will relay his words will have been supplied by a South African television company, Africa Television News

The company has paid R200 000 for an exclusive contract with the Lesotho church for live television coverage of the Papal visit

Even the stages on which the Pope will celebrate mass in Maseru and in Roma, 35km away, will be built by a South African firm in Ficksburg, just across the border

The church seems to be looking forward to a massive South African influx, saying the Pope's visit will promote goodwill throughout the Southern African region — Sapa-Reuter

dent Victor Paz Estenssoro's New Economic Policy. And the success is strictly limited.

The government has already reduced the 1988 growth forecast from 4% to 2.5% and foreign specialists doubt whether this can be achieved. Although years of contraction have given way to a 2% growth rate in 1987, annual income has fallen to about US\$560 per head. By many standards, including infant mortality and malnutrition, Bolivia is the poorest nation in South America.

Mining production has been dropping steadily as a result of low prices and closures. Last year's tin earnings were down to less than \$70m, representing 12% of export income. But Comibol, the state mining company which now accounts for less than 10% of output, hopes to rehabilitate several mines and new legislation to attract foreign investment is planned.

Some redundant miners, unable to find employment in cities or the coca-growing valleys, have returned to join co-operatives, working the silver mountain at Potosí on the high plain. Although the mountain looks like a huge, well-sifted pile of rubble, recent studies suggest that modern techniques could extract even more silver than was mined in Spanish colonial days.

Growing coca — the raw material for cocaine — is legal and an ancient tradition for the indigenous people of the Andes. But a new law being discussed by the Bolivian congress is expected to limit the crop to certain areas, prohibit new planting and promote crop substitution.

Although coca and cocaine prices have tumbled in recent months, coca is still the most resilient source of income in much of eastern Bolivia, covering some 80 000 ha. Drug experts are quick to point out that the peasant defence of coca-growing also benefits cocaine traffickers and question some of the anti-imperialist, pro-tradition rhetoric behind the protests.

Bolivians anxiously insist that they do not have a cocaine problem of Colombian intensity. Violence is rare, though cocaine has permeated most national institutions. The appearance of "narco-videos," showing meetings between leading politicians and the country's cocaine king, Roberto Suarez, reinforce the connections.

Appreciative of Bolivia's New Economic Policy, creditors have been lenient on the whole, while donors are responding to the need for aid, especially food.

In a visit to Washington during May, the economic team managed to tie up a package involving an IMF structural adjustment facility and some \$70m from the World Bank to buttress the financial system and provide capital for the private sector.

However, the country is already gearing up for next May's general election and the business confidence which has been so carefully nurtured is bound to suffer. Oil and mining companies, convinced of the richness of Bolivia's natural resources, are keen to buy in if this unprecedented period of political stability lasts. ■

BOLIVIA

Labour pains

Bolivians are painfully coming to terms with the success — measured in terms of International Monetary Fund (IMF) backing, 11% inflation during 1987 and a relatively stable currency — and also the harshness of Presi-

The Pope wants to visit ¹⁶⁷ South Africa — cardinal ^{Star 30/6/88}

By Winnie Graham

Pope John Paul II wants to visit South Africa

South Africa's only cardinal, Cardinal Owen McCann of Cape Town, says the Pope has personally told him this

"He will certainly come to the Republic one day," he added

Cardinal McCann was commenting on the on-going criticism that Pope John Paul had deliberately excluded the Republic from his tour of southern Africa

The Pope will be visiting Zimbabwe, Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland and Mozambique in mid-September

The cardinal said Lesotho had invited the Pope to southern Africa to beati-

fy Father Joseph Gerard in the country where he had spent more than 50 years

The invitation to visit the region had initially come from IMBISA (the Inter-regional Meeting of the Bishops of southern Africa) who, at their three-yearly meeting in Harare in 1985, decided to invite the Pope to address them

Initially it was hoped to host the IMBISA conference in Lesotho but Maseru lacked the infra-structure for the meeting which was then shifted to Harare

Because the Pope was to address the IMBISA conference, Zimbabwe was included in his itinerary



Anti-SA sanctions: Lesotho calls for aid

From ALAN DUNN
The Argus Foreign Service

WASHINGTON. — King Moshoeshoe 2 of Lesotho has appealed for foreign aid to protect his kingdom and other neighbours of South Africa if further economic sanctions are imposed against the Republic.

He said the international community could press South Africa as it wanted, "but its members must not fail to build into such actions consideration for the special needs of South Africa's neighbours, willing as we are to sacrifice but not to die as nations in order to bring an end to apartheid."

Stronger hand

In his appeal in the New York Times yesterday King Moshoeshoe asked specifically for American financing for the Lesotho highlands water project

"As a water exporter, Lesotho would for the first time have a stronger hand economically with South Africa, thereby creating a cost to Pretoria for its destabilisation efforts in Lesotho.

"It is vitally important to us to secure external financing for this project, especially from the United States, to reduce as much as possible the need to go to South African money markets."

"Where were you?"

The king said the faith in the United States of many Africans had been restored in 1986 when Congress passed a package of stiff sanctions against South Africa. The trade restrictions now under debate on Capitol Hill were even tougher, he noted.

"If Congress passes the latest measures they should be accompanied by relief for the people, such as those in neighbouring Lesotho, who are not intended targets but who would nonetheless be adversely affected."

Lesotho recognised the international community's right to take whatever steps it thought necessary to end apartheid. "We are willing to endure sacrifices to help to achieve that goal, but the international community could ease our economic hardships by providing moral and financial aid."

Addressing those who argued against sanctions in the name of hurting black people in and near South Africa, the monarch asked. "Where were you while South Africa was imposing a blockade around Lesotho?"

Lesotho had heard little foreign protest over Lesotho's survival then, and did not find the new concern persuasive.

"We are as vulnerable as Berlin was in 1948, but so far the West has not shown it has the political will to rescue us with a comparable airlift should the need arise."

Lesotho appeals for aid

Star
6-1-1988 • The Star Bureau

(167)

WASHINGTON — King Moshoeshoe II of Lesotho has appealed for foreign aid to protect his kingdom and neighbouring states from doom if further economic sanctions are imposed against South Africa.

He said the international community could press South Africa as it wanted, "but its members must not fail to build into such actions consideration for the special needs of South Africa's neighbours — willing as we are to sacrifice, but not to die as nations, in order to bring an end to apartheid".

The *New York Times* quoted a plea from King Moshoeshoe for American financing for the Lesotho Highlands water project.

MASERU — Standard Chartered Merchant Bank Ltd of London (SCMB) yesterday concluded a \$1bn contract to finance the water transfer component of the giant R4bn Lesotho Highland water project.

A spokesman for the project said SCMB will be financial advisers under a World Bank-funded technical assistance contract.

He said the London bank had the important task of assisting the Lesotho Highland Development Authority in arranging the finance for construction of the initial phase of the project.

(167) B/day 12/7/88

Lesotho gets R1bn backer

Major construction work is due to start early in 1990

The bank had already been introduced to the World Bank at a meeting in Maseru in June to discuss financing arrangements

The World Bank had considerable experience in raising finance for similar large projects and had reaffirmed support for the project. — Sapa

(167) 1217158

Mountain people hard hit

There is great concern about the plight of people who live on the Lesotho side of the Drakensberg

Remote areas have been cut off and it is feared the people may run out of food

Heavy snowfalls have blanketed the Lesotho side of the mountains and some outlying towns have been without electricity for three days

About 10 000 Basotho in the mountainous and remote Mokhatlong area in Lesotho were faced with hunger and stock losses following Sunday's snowstorm, said Major Thamae of the Lesotho police

He said that snow was still lying more than a metre deep yesterday and he feared that losses would be high

Sheep and goats are the animals mostly farmed at Mokhatlong

Major Thamae said reserves of mealie meal were running out fast. Stock-feed was already almost non-existent

in the area where, at the best of times, there was almost no natural grazing

"It will be at least a few days before relief helicopters can get in here. The roads will be impassable for quite a while, perhaps another few weeks"

On the Malutis snow fell heavily on Saturday with the temperature dropping to minus 9 deg C

The towns on the South African side of the mountains most affected by the snow were Matatiele, Swarberg, Franklin, Underberg, Impendle, Inzinga, Loteni, Kamberg, Nottingham Road, Mooi River, Bergville, Lady-smith and Van Reenen

The Amajuba Pass north of Newcastle was closed at 1 30 am yesterday because it was covered by 5 cm of ice and was extremely dangerous

The Sani, Kwacha's Nek and Bushmen's Nek passes from Natal to Lesotho were still closed yesterday — Staff Reporters and Sapa

HOUSING SCHEMES

(167)

One for Lesotho

The Lesotho Highlands Water Project is expected to draw thousands of people to the region in the near future and already there is a housing shortage of some 7 000 units in Maseru

Now Time Projects has developed a housing policy for the Lesotho Highlands Development Authority to help employees own homes in the area

The policy allows employees to choose either assisted ownership, structured to take maximum advantage of Lesotho's Tax Act, or subsidised rental. The latter, according to Time Projects MD Ron Henderson, was devised to take into account lower paid employees who could not immediately afford to buy a house. They will have options to purchase

Henderson says that, as the project takes off, the incomes of local employees will rise, creating a rural to urban drift and a demand for increased formal sector housing

Meanwhile, the policy has also been structured so that home ownership does not depend on a substantial deposit and that upgrading can take place cheaply

15/7/88 RM

Time Projects is also involved with the Development Bank of Southern Africa in the establishment of a 1 600-stand residential development to the east of Maseru ■

Witch-doctor's beads guard water supply

A witch-doctor has restored a Lesotho water supply interrupted by vandals, *Engineering News* reports in this week's issue

When stone-throwers in a village in the Maluti mountains crippled a solar borehole system, workers — called in to replace the solar panel — decided first to summon the local ngaka (the witch-doctor)

MIXTURE

The ngaka duly came down from his mountain headquarters and "doctored" the new solar panel with a mixture of bark and beads

No-one has since ventured near the panel and the water supply for the village is assured for as long as the sun shines —

Sapa

Lesotho's trapped begin eating snow to stay alive

Conditions in the north-east of Lesotho and especially in the vicinity of Mokhotlong, where about 50 000 people have been trapped by heavy snowfalls, are serious and the region will probably be declared a disaster area today.

Thousands of people have been cut off from the outside world for a week and have run out of food and firewood. Many people have begun eating snow to stay alive.

Conditions could worsen when the snow begins to melt as many access roads will have to remain closed even longer. One man has been found dead and three children are missing.

During heavy snowfalls in the country in September last year, food, medical supplies, clothes and fuel for heating purposes were flown to remote areas by SAAF helicopters from the Bloemspruit air base near Bloemfontein and many people were brought to safety by helicopter — Sapa

Pope's visit to Lesotho will cost R5-m

SA 'loaves and fishes' will feed the 1,5-m

By Ken Vernon,
The Star's Africa News Service

Despite the fact that Pope John Paul II will not visit South Africa on his southern African tour later this year, it will be South African "loaves and fishes" that feed the thousands who listen to his sermons in the mountains of Lesotho

On his 10-day tour of the region, the Pope will visit every country bordering South Africa and will fly over it, but a touch-down in the Republic has been ruled "too controversial"

The closest South Africa will get to having official contact will be a message radioed from the pontiff's plane to the State President as it flies over South Africa en route from Botswana to Lesotho

The Lesotho visit is to be the highpoint of the Pope's southern African swing in September and a huge operation is underway to supply food, drink and shelter to about 1,5 million people

BEING ORGANISED

The operation is being organised, co-ordinated and mostly financed from South Africa

It is estimated that the Pope's visit to Lesotho will cost more than R5 million and the kingdom has established a fund-raising centre in Johannesburg manned by a "retail consultant" who is charged with the "selling" of the Pope in order to raise money

The money-making office has quickly moved into top gear, arranging for the selling of everything from the rights to market Pope T-shirts, caps, rosaries and so on to franchises to supply the pilgrims with everything from food and water to parking

Lesotho is also building a R500 000 home for the Pope to live in for his two-day visit

In addition, 32 tent towns are being built to accommodate 430 000 pilgrims

OTHER COUNTRIES

Other countries on the tour are not planning as lavish a reception

In Zimbabwe, where the Pope will begin his tour on September 10, about 300 000 people will see him and the three-day visit will cost less than R1 million

In Botswana, his next stop after Zimbabwe, about 100 000 people are expected to see the Pope during his 24-hour stay in Gaborone. The visit is expected to cost R200 000

From Botswana the pontiff will fly to Lesotho and then to Swaziland for an eight-hour visit. About 60 000 people will try for a glimpse of him there. This stopover is expected to cost less than R50 000.

In Mozambique, last leg of the tour, arrangements have been complicated by the uncertain security situation in the country. Details of where the Pope will be staying are being kept secret for security reasons

Pope John Paul a lavish reception has been planned for him in Maseru

Airlift brings hope as tragedy stalks Lesotho's ice-bound villages

Fast mission of mercy

Star 16/7/68

Card tumbled to aerobatics

Loops and rolls at Star Airshow

SUE VALENTINE

THE man who today will be doing rolls, loops and inverted flying in a plane without an engine barely metres above the ground — and all this with one hand after his right arm was injured in a car crash — was once a Luftwaffe fighter pilot in World War 2.

He is Carl Heinz Hirsch, the well-known, half-century-old, the air in a year as well as having notched up 30 years in South Africa.

His breathtaking low-level manoeuvres — inverted flying at 200 m and a series of three loops ending 2 m above the ground — will be demonstrated at The Star Airshow at Grand Central Airport today.

Mr Hirsch's daredevil reputation has earned him the nickname "The Kamikaze Kid".

But daredevil aerobatics have nothing on the experience of being shot down in northern Belgium during the war, says Mr Hirsch.



ABOVE: Hong-gilding

SATURDAY STAR CORRESPONDENT

DURBAN — A huge mercy mission starts today as more than 30 tons of food, medicines and blankets are loaded into aircraft and flown to the estimated 30 000 Basuto who have been cut off from the outside world for a week by killer snowfalls.

The remote ice-bound country, still isolated in most parts by the worst snow in years, was declared a disaster area yesterday.

And, as the plight of the people trapped worsened last night and fears increased for the lives of many of the young and the aged, scores of callers in the Johannesburg and Pretoria areas telephoned the Saturday Star offering help in the form of cash, provisions and warm clothing.

One caller, Mrs Val Heyns of Pretoria said, "those poor kids, their feet must be like blocks of ice." She wanted to set up a collection point immediately in Pretoria to launch a relief operation. She suggested that this newspaper extend its yearly winter Operation Snowball for the needy to include the trapped people of the remote Lesotho valleys.

It has been announced in Maseru, meanwhile, that two Lesotho Defence Force helicopters will be flying into the Mapholong district today after a preliminary report from the Lesotho National Disaster Relief Committee, which toured the area yesterday.

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Mr Vincent Mabebo, said last night that he had spent the entire day leading the committee through the area to assess the situation.

They visited more than 20 villages and in most of them food was running very low.

In many cases, the villagers were unable to get through to their local trading stores to buy supplies. This was why the committee had decided to act immediately.

Mr Mabebo said the committee had been able to get only a superficial picture of the extent of the disaster and would be returning to the area over the weekend.

District Secretary for Mapholong, Mr M. M. Part of the

Wits probes conditions at Baragwanath

SARAH SARA MARTIN

THE saga of overcrowding and inadequate facilities in Baragwanath Hospital's Medicine Department reached a climax this week when the University of the Witwatersrand launched an inquiry into conditions at the hospital.

Professor Clive Rossendorf, dean of the faculty of Wits Medical School, has described the issue as "very sensitive".

He told the Saturday Star that "an independent inquiry had been set up to look at all aspects of the Department of Medicine relevant to the university, namely teaching and research components in the medical wards of Baragwanath Hospital".

He refrained from naming the members of the committee but it is believed that top professors of medicine from other teaching hospitals are involved.

The findings of the investigation are due to be submitted to Wits University shortly.

The Saturday Star has been emphasising the problem of the shortage of beds at Baragwanath Hospital since March last year, with its weekly "Bara Barometer".

The "Barometer" has shown that there is an average of more than

TO PAGE 2



Power is restored to Soweto residents

STAN HLOPHI

SOWETO residents whose electricity supply has been restored after two months welcomed the council's move — but urged the council to start negotiating with community leaders to break the rent impasse.

A meeting of the Soweto Council called by the mayor Mr Nelson Botile after his return from World Council of Mayors meeting in Washington, found that residents who were up-to-date with their payments were suffering because others were in arrears.

The meeting resolved to restore electrical power even to those who had not paid their accounts.

But residents main tained the council should negotiate with the representatives of the community and refrain from bureaucratic measures.

See Pages 2 and 10

Germany is guilty, says Kohl

LONDON — Clergymen, scholars and Holocaust survivors yesterday applauded a message from West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl acknow-

of me

16/7/88

(167) (168)

SATURDAY STAR CORRESPONDENT

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One caller, Mrs Val Heyns, of Pretoria said "Those poor kids, their feet must be like blocks of ice."

She wanted to set up a collection point immediately in Pretoria to launch a relief operation. She suggested that this newspaper extend its yearly winter Operation Snowball for the needy to include the trapped people of the remote Lesotho valleys.

It has been announced in Maseru, meanwhile, that two Lesotho Defence Force helicopters will be flying into the Makhotlong district today after a preliminary report from the Lesotho National Disaster Relief Committee, which toured the area yesterday.

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Mr Vincent Malebo, said last night that he had spent the entire day leading the committee through the area to assess the situation.

They visited more than 20 villages and in most of them food was running very low.

In many cases, the villagers were unable to get through to their local trading stores to buy supplies. This was why the committee had decided to act immediately.

Mr Malebo said the committee had been able to get only a superficial picture of the extent of the disaster and would be returning to the area over the weekend.

District Secretary for Makhotlong, Mr M Maluke said "Part of the road to Natal has been opened on the Lesotho side, but only four-wheel-drive vehicles can use it at present."

Because of impassible roads and broken communications, it was difficult to assess the situation.

The committee had requested reports from village chiefs on the number of people isolated, crop and animal losses, and supplies needed. However, because of deep snow, few reports had been received.

The main means of transport was horse or donkey and, in the deep

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Vast mercy mission

167) (168) ● FROM PAGE 1

Snowdrifts, this became a problem

The committee knew of 10 people who had died. Three schoolboys drowned while trying to ice-skate on a frozen dam, one man had died while trying to reach the clinic, and others had been trapped by snow at a mountain-top cattle post.

Reports had also been received of the death of 80 animals, but the committee feared these numbers could be much higher.

In Maseru, various government departments, local charities, the Red Cross and companies are co-operating to compile stocks of food, medicines, eyedrops for those complaining of the brightness of the snow, warm clothing and blankets.

In Durban, it was announced that costs likely to run into "hundreds of thousands of rands" were incurred this week in the Drakensberg rescue of five young, ill-equipped and largely inexperienced hikers. And last night the Natal MEC, Mr Val Volker, urged tighter regulations for mountain hikers.

Dr Sherman Ripley, who for many years led the Mountain Club rescues in the Drakensberg, said the costs involved in a very lengthy rescue included the use of helicopters and crews, and lost working hours and productivity.

Several SAAF helicopters were used in this week's rescue — and their operating costs range from about R1 500 to R5 500 an hour.

Mr Volker suggested that, as a reasonably simple and inexpensive measure, people going on long hikes should be required to take flares for emergencies.

Another proposal, he said, was that hiking parties should take a large, brightly colourful sheet which could be spotted easily by search aircraft.

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Botha denies ⁽¹⁶⁷⁾ snarl-up over aid to Lesotho

Political Staff *AGG 18/7/88*
FOREIGN Minister Mr Pik Botha has contradicted reports that a diplomatic snarl-up has prevented South African aid reaching 50 000 snow-bound Basotho.

Mr Botha said South Africa had stood ready for the past week to aid Lesotho.

The Lesotho government was aware of this but South Africa had yesterday also made a firm offer of aid

A direct offer had been made and the decision of the Lesotho government was expected to be conveyed to Mr Gemis Geldenhuys, SA's trade representative in Maseru, today.

A weekend report claimed that the Lesotho government made a call for aid on Thursday while South African Foreign Affairs spokesmen were denying that a request had been made

A spokesman for the department said last night that no request had been received either by the department or the trade representative in Maseru.

cont. trips 19/7/88 167

Red Cross sets up base in Lesotho

Own Correspondent

MARITZBURG. — The Lesotho Red Cross has established a base in the Thaba-Tseka district to help distribute emergency supplies to thousands of Basuto still stranded in the snowbound mountainous regions of the country.

An estimated 30 000 Basuto are trapped by snow. The area was declared a disaster zone by the Maseru government at the weekend, when a massive mercy campaign began to distribute more than 30 tons of food, medicines and blankets. A Red Cross spokesman, Ms Mandisa Williams, yesterday said a group of seven volunteer workers had been sent to the southern and north-eastern Mokhotlong regions to make an assessment. They are to establish the needs of the residents and help distribute emergency supplies.

The area is the worst affected by the icy conditions. Snow is still lying up to a metre deep in some places.

Helicopters are delivering food, medicines, blankets and other emergency items to the remote and stranded villages which have been cut off for

more than a week by the heaviest snowfalls in many years.

The emergency supplies have been provided by the Lesotho government and relief organizations.

South Africa has made a firm offer of help to the Lesotho government, according to the Foreign Minister, Mr Pik Botha. However, a spokesman said the Maseru authorities had not yet considered it necessary to enlist this proffered aid.

Sani Pass, the only access linking Lesotho to South Africa in the east, was reopened to four-wheel-drive vehicles at the weekend after it was blocked by snow and ice for nearly a week. The road to Mokhotlong town was also opened.

● Sapa reports that peaks and slopes of the Matroosberg and Skurweberg near Ceres were covered in thick snow yesterday. Snow also covered mountain peaks near Wellington.

The falls were accompanied by soft soaking rains and some places in the Kouebokkeveld received up to 60mm. Wellington received 18mm and Ceres 8mm yesterday. Good rains were also recorded in other places in the Western Cape.

SA

SA flies *Star 1917/88* in-to help Lesotho *167*

By Craig Kotze

The South African Air Force (SAAF) today flew four helicopters and a Dakota aircraft to Maseru in Lesotho on a mercy mission to begin relief operations in areas cut off by heavy snowfalls.

Thousands of people are said to be cut off and in need of assistance in Lesotho.

SAAF spokesman Commandant Koos Smit said this morning the Alouette helicopters and the Dakota left the Bloemspruit Air Force base at Bloemfontein for Maseru.

A Mobile Air Operations Team (MAOT) would be formed in Maseru to co-ordinate rescue operations. A pilot will assume command.

Food, clothing and other necessities would be ferried from 87 Helicopter Flying School at Bloemspruit to the MAOT by the Dakota, from where it would be distributed by the Alouettes to wherever the supplies were needed.

"We will determine today where the supplies are needed. There is still a lot of spadework to be done before rescue operations can start," said Commandant Smit.

He said the Air Force would not be collecting food or supplies for relief work, but would merely distribute them.

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Air Force helps in snowbound Lesotho

CMT Tintis
2d/7/88
167

Own Correspondent

MARITZBURG — Emergency provisions were transported by road and air for distribution among stricken communities in snowbound areas of Lesotho yesterday, according to the South African trade mission in Maseru

At least four people have died in bitter winter weather which hit the country 10 days ago, cutting road links, the government said yesterday

Three children drowned when the ice gave way as they skated and an old man froze to death at Linakeneng in the northeastern Mokhotlong highlands, a government spokesman said

Hundreds of goats and sheep have died in blizzards

Aircraft of the South African Air Force carried out reconnaissance flights early yesterday to establish which communities were most in need of urgent assistance

A SAAF spokesman in Pretoria said four Alouette 111 helicopters and a DC-3 Dakota from Bloemspruit near Bloemfontein had been dispatched to Lesotho following a request for help

A mobile air operations team centre had been set up at Maseru from where

flights would be directed and relief work co-ordinated

The SA trade representative in Maseru, Mr Ghemus Geldenhuys, said supplies would be distributed from an airstrip at Thaba-Tseka and from Mokhotlong

"Bulk supplies are being flown from Maseru airport to Mokhotlong while supplies to Thaba-Tseka, in central Lesotho, are being transported by road. Helicopters will supply certain areas identified by the Lesotho government from those two points"

Mr Geldenhuys said many areas had been cut off by last Sunday's heavy snowfalls and according to reports there was still "a lot of snow and ice around" and it was freezing cold at Mokhotlong

"Those areas worst hit by the snowstorms should have supplies by Friday as a result of the combined efforts of the SAAF and the Lesotho Air Force"

According to Mr Geldenhuys the SAAF Dakota had already made two flights to Mokhotlong and had dropped off supplies

Residents of the capital Maseru said the snowstorms had subsided, and some roads re-opened but that remote areas remained inaccessible — Sapa-Reuter

Fuel shortage threatens Lesotho airlift

Star 20/7/88 (167)
By Dawn Barkhuizen

MASERU — Lack of fuel could hamper an emergency airlift which started in Lesotho yesterday

South African Air Force helicopters ferrying mealie meal to thousands of people cut off by heavy snow in northern Lesotho were down to five drums of fuel at the end of the first day

Last night plans were under way to move fuel to central points of Mokhotlong and Thaba Tseka by road

Food is being dropped into an estimated 80 isolated villages by four SAAF Alouette helicopters and two helicopters of the Royal Lesotho De-

fence Force Air Wing

Lesotho Information Minister Mr Vincent Malebo — who is in charge of the mercy mission — estimated last night that about 30 000 people were cut off at various points stretching from Mokhotlong to Quacha's Neck

The SAAF officer in charge of the lift, Commandant Hugh Paine, said nearly 5 000 bags of mealie meal were deposited yesterday, and one sick woman was airlifted to Mokhotlong Hospital

Commandant Paine said the 87 Helicopter Flying School at Bloemspruit, which had been on standby since early

last week, responded to the Lesotho government's appeal for help on Monday

Helicopter pilots, who flew a total of 20 flights yesterday spending only minutes on the ground said that villagers appeared "very pleased to see us"

Authorities say the situation was not as bad as last year

Three of the four fatalities since the snow gripped Lesotho 10 days ago were children who fell through ice and drowned, a government statement said

An old man froze to death at Lina-keneng in the Mokhotlong highlands

Relief
Swetani 21/1/88
to snow
hit ⁽¹⁶⁷⁾
Lesotho

RADIO Lesotho reports that more than 8 300 kg of maize meal has so far been distributed in the Mokhotlong district during relief operations for people cut off by the recent heavy snowfalls, according to SABC's Africa desk.

The radio said relief food supplies had been delivered to the Matsoaing, Linakeng and Santop areas

Yesterday's operations will concentrate on the Mokhotlong Valley and adjacent areas

Red Cross

The relief operations are being carried out by a Lesotho Red Cross team assisted by a Royal Lesotho Defence Force helicopter working jointly with South African Air Force helicopters

A Dakota from South Africa's Bloem-spruit air base, near Bloemfontein, has been transporting maize meal and fuel to Mokhotlong — Sapa



Much of the snow in Lesotho has melted and, if good weather prevails, life in the mountains will be back to normal by the end of the month.

property owner on the Croco-
file file

● Pictures by Dawn Barkhuizen

By Dawn Barkhuizen,
The Star's Africa
News Service

MOKHOTLONG — The plight of hundreds of people cut off in snowbound northern Lesotho eased yesterday when 3 350 kg of mealie meal was dropped at the worst-hit villages by four South African Air Force helicopters and one from the Royal Lesotho Defence Force air wing.

The food drops were made as news of two more deaths was reported from the Mokhotlong area.

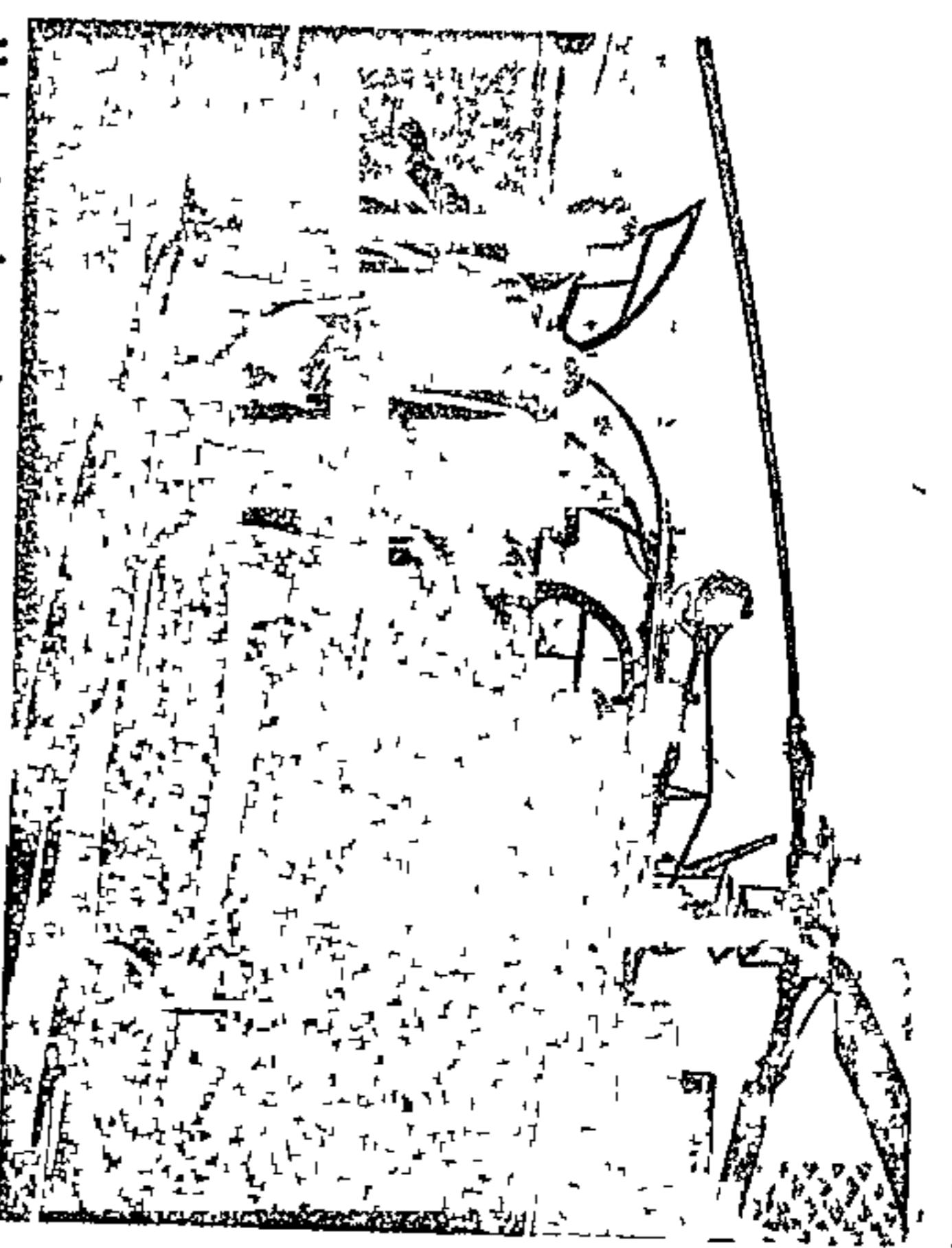
CONDITIONS

The two people died as a result of carbon-monoxide poisoning in their huts in a remote village in northern Lesotho, bringing the death toll in the heavy snowfalls to six.

This was confirmed last night by the Minister of Information, Mr Vincent Malebo, who said the gas had been released by fuel being used for heating.

A Red Cross spokesman said the situation was no longer critical and, if good weather prevailed, conditions would be normal by the end of the month.

The helicopters' pilots are racing against time to provide at least 58 more villages in isolated valleys with food and they estimate the operation could take another 16 days if it con-



Helicopters have dropped food supplies for hundreds of people in snowbound Lesotho. Pilots are racing against time to fly in 21 176 kg of food to at least 58 more villages.

The number of possible helicopter mercy missions was cut by half yesterday because of a delay at Maseru in loading fuel which was to be delivered to Mokhotlong by a SAAF Dakota.

An RLDf helicopter which operated on Tuesday — the first day of the airlift — was grounded yesterday with technical trouble.

Two helicopters, donated by a South African-based oil company, arrived in Lesotho last night to assist SAAF and RLDf helicopters on the third day of their mercy missions.

A Red Cross spokesman, Miss Mandy Williams, said the two would be used to help assess the situation in areas not yet surveyed and later to assist in food distribution.

Much of the snow has melted in the lower regions and on north-facing slopes.

By late yesterday afternoon, Red Cross field workers had identified about 1 611 families cut off in about 62 isolated vil-

lages in the Mokhotlong district. They are scattered in outlying areas in the north-eastern mountains around Thaba Tseki. Red Cross workers said while families were being provided with rations of meal to last one month, supplies of fuel for cooking were running low and apples were being made for paraffin.

CONCERN

Another concern was that shop supplies in small trading towns in the north-east had run out and villagers, walking for up to two days to buy food, often had to return home empty-handed.

Other villagers in the remote Tsoana Makhulo area — accessible only by helicopter — told The Star's Africa News Service yesterday they had run out of food and had been living on handfuls of peas.

And, they said, winter stocks were scarce this year because rain and heavy snow in September and October last year had ruined crops.

Countdown to Pope's arrival in Lesotho

By Janet Heard

There are 57 days until Pope John Paul II arrives in Lesotho and the massive organisation involved to ensure the occasion runs smoothly for the estimated 1 million people travelling from South Africa is gaining momentum

Massive transport, border control, accommodation, and special travel arrangements are being organised by the Papal Visit Office to ensure the success of the tour

Mr Andreas Moshoeshoe said negotiations between the South African and Lesotho governments to implement plans for travel documents were taking place today

Mr I Ferreira, from the Johannesburg Papal Visit Office, said today there was a lack of beds in the 10 cities accommodating pilgrims in Lesotho. Chartered flights, he said, had been organised which would fly pilgrims to Lesotho in the morning, and fly them back to South Africa that evening, after each event.

Early booking of transport was essential. Mr Ferreira said "Last Monday, a team was selected to tour all dioceses in South Africa to determine who was going to Lesotho."

POPE John Paul II

All ^{Sowetan} _{22/7/88}
roads
lead to
Maseru

(167)

SCORES of buses are being chartered to take Natal pilgrims to Lesotho and Swaziland to see Pope John Paul II during his Southern African visit in September.

A spokesman for the papal visit office in Maseru says he expects an influx of more than 500 000 South Africans into the Lesotho capital for the major events of the tour.

The spokesman said that accommodating the pilgrims in Maseru was a very serious problem. Leading hotels were all booked out and the government was considering establishing more than 30 "villages" of tents and caravans.

Travel agents in Durban say that a considerable number of local people going to Maseru cannot afford hotel accommodation but are prepared to "sleep under the stars" if necessary

Lesotho food airlift ¹⁶⁷ cost SAAF R60 000

The SA Air Force's costs in airlifting emergency provisions to Lesotho's snowbound population this month amounted to R60 000, SAAF chief General J P B van Loggerenberg said in Pretoria yesterday

A total of 23 000 kg of provisions had been taken to stricken villagers

512V 2617188
● A team from the Red Cross of Lesotho is distributing 40 tons of maize meal to snowbound areas of the country. A Red Cross official based in Zimbabwe, Mr Guy Allison, said the financial position of the Lesotho Red Cross was good at present, but in view of the high cost of helicopters to airlift relief supplies, its financial resources could decrease significantly if the disaster situation continued. — Sapa.

The Mondragon system of
worker production cooperatives.
Industrial and Labour Relations
Review Vol. 31, No 1, October

1977.
Gutierrez and
Johnson of ARA
Foto Whyte, William

150 die

Scwefem 28/7/88

AT least 150 people in Lesotho were killed in road accidents during the first six months of this year, SABC's Africa desk reports (167)

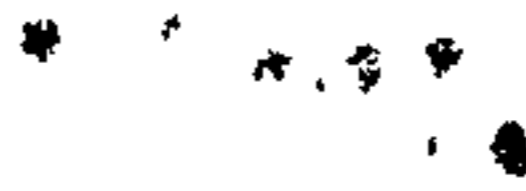
The figure showed an increase of 23 over the corresponding period last year, when 127 lives were lost.

CHIEF 7m 15 5/19/67
**Botha no to
Lesotho call/67**

MASERU — President P W Botha has turned down a plea by opposition leaders in Lesotho to encourage the military council to step down in favour of a civilian government

Mr Botha replied in a letter that South Africa adhered to a policy of non-interference in the domestic affairs of other countries

He recommended that they take up the matter with the chairman of the military council, Major General Letsing Lekhanya — Sapa



Plea for end to military government

PW turns down plea from Lesotho

(147)
S.M.
5/9/88.

The State President, Mr P W Botha, has turned down a plea from Lesotho opposition leaders to intervene diplomatically in an effort to end military rule in the coun-

try, a South African official said at the weekend.

The deputy director-general of foreign affairs, Mr Glen Babb, told Reuters he had written to five Lesotho opposition

leaders on President Botha's behalf to reject their request.

The letter advised them to use "normal remedies and normal approaches within the confines of their own consti-

tution to approach their government", Mr Babb said.

According to Radio South Africa, the opposition leaders had appealed to President Botha to persuade the ruling Military Council to step down

President Botha replied that the South African Government had followed a policy of non-interference in other countries' domestic affairs for decades, the radio said.

He recommended that the opposition leaders take up their grievances with Lesotho's military ruler, Major-General Justin Lekhanya.

The military took power in a January 1986 coup shortly after South Africa imposed a blockade which prevented fuel and other vital goods entering landlocked Lesotho.

The military government later agreed with a request from Pretoria to crack down on any African National Congress in the country.

Afrikaans students on Maputo study tour

Staff Reporter

THIRTEEN students from four Afrikaans universities left South Africa today for an eight-day visit to Mozambique to speak to academics and political and community leaders.

The leader of the group is Mr Mark Behr, chairman of Nusas and newly elected SRC member of the University of Stellenbosch. He emphasised that members of the group were going in their personal capacities and not as representatives of their universities.

The other students are Barrie Terblanche, Daniel Malan, Tanja Hichert, Loretta Feris, Leslee Durr, Lourens Ackerman, Hermann Reuter, Ronel Nel and Pierre de Vos (all of Stellenbosch), Darelle van Greunen (University of Port Elizabeth), Steven Cilliers (University of Pretoria) and Lucius Botes (University of the Orange Free State).

FINANCED BY IDASA

A freelance journalist from Johannesburg, Mr Hennie Serfontein, is accompanying the group.

The trip is financed by the Institute of Democratic Alternatives for South Africa (Idasa). The students will be the guests of the Eduardo Mondlane University in Maputo.

They plan to study the alleged destabilisation of Mozambique by South Africa, its economic implications and the effects of the Nkomati Accord on the country.

The students feel they will be able to compile a useful report for distribution on campuses and for interested institutions.

Mr Behr said a formal meeting with the ANC was unlikely because of the time factor.

167 SMC 6/9/88
Israel arrests
316 in raid on
draft dodgers

JERUSALEM — Sixteen people, including senior army officers, have been arrested in a swoop on a ring that allegedly accepted bribes for helping Israelis avoid military service

Israeli radio said eight soldiers were among those arrested, including two lieutenant-colonels, and all were connected to the recruiting office.

At least 37 soldiers are in jail for refusing to serve in the occupied territories, according to Yesh Gvul, an organisation of conscientious objectors

● Two more Palestinian journalists have been arrested for alleged links to underground groups

They were ordered to be jailed without trial for six months by Defence Minister Mr Yitzhak Rabin

Lesotho clampdown

REPORTS, pictures and comment in this edition may be censored in terms of the Government's state of emergency.

MASERU — The Lesotho Military Council has declared a state of emergency — three weeks before Pope John Paul II visits the mountain kingdom. The declaration, published in the *Government Gazette* of August 24, comes barely two years after the council

By MZIKAYISE EDOM and THEMBA MOLEFI

took power in a bloodless coup from Leabua Jonathan, who died last year. General Metsing Lekhanya led the coup. The declaration was signed by King Moshoe-shoe II and has baffled many Lesotho citizens.

Reasons for the state of emergency have not been given but it is speculated that full details will be given after the Pope leaves on September 16.

According to government sources, the state of emergency has not been

• To Page 2

Papal visit

• From Page 1

fully implemented because it could sour the three-day papal visit which would culminate in the beatification of French missionary, Father Joseph Gerard.

Meanwhile, the Lesotho papal visit office has said that the South African authorities will step up security contingency measures inside the country as from September 12.

The Lesotho Government has announced that only accredited vehicles would be allowed to move in the capital, Maseru, between September 12 and 16.

Although the papal booking office in Maseru has said that about 15 000 foreigners have already booked tent accommodation, the tents have not been erected.

The Lesotho papal visit office said it was hoping to have everything under control despite fears that internal security in the country could be threatened by the throng of pilgrims.

The office said it expected 30 000 tents from Taiwan, China, to be shipped in but these have not arrived. Water, sanitation and electricity facilities have not been put up yet.

promised him on discharge from the army.

Emergency on eve of Pope's visit

CAPL Tink
8/9/88
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JOHANNESBURG. — The Lesotho Military Council has declared a state of emergency — three weeks before Pope John Paul II visits the mountain kingdom, the Sowetan reports.

The declaration, published in the Government Gazette of August 24, comes barely two years after the council took power in a bloodless coup from Chief Leabua Jonathan, who died last year.

General Metsing Lekhanya led the coup.

The declaration was signed by King Moshoeshoe II, and has baffled many Lesotho citizens.

Reasons for the state of emergency have not been given, but it is speculated that full details will be given after the Pope leaves.

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NOON

SOWETAN, Friday, September 9, 1988

Preparations for Pope's visit lagging behind

THREAT OF CHAOS IN LESOTHO

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28
9/9/88
M. M. M.

By MZIKAYISE EDOM
and THEMBA MOLEFE

THERE are fears that there could be chaos if Pope John Paul II arrives in Lesotho on September 14 with preparations still incomplete.

The 50km road from Maseru to Roma on which the Pontiff will travel in his R85 000 limousine is not properly tarred. It is full of potholes and even unsafe for regular users.

Even the road between Maseru and Thaba Bosio, where the Pontiff will meet King Moshoeshoe II and senior government officials on his arrival is incomplete. The Pope may have to use a dirt road to attend this ceremony.

One of the few completed projects is the podium on which the Pope will deliver a sermon and conduct mass at Roma.

However, this week workers and schoolboys from a nearby Catholic school were still erecting crowd control barrier poles at Roma.

The envisaged tent villages have not been put up. So are the 30 000 expected tents from Taiwan, China. The only tents available are enough for 40 000 pilgrims

Meanwhile, for those based in Lesotho have been trying to sell tickets at R250 a piece for people to attend the beatification ceremony to be performed by Pope John Paul II in Maseru next week — but the tickets are available FREE.

A motel outside Maseru has raised its daily rates from R35 to R220.

Gunmen hijack

pilgrims' buses: SA force moves in

MS41

14/9/88

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From KEN VERNON and JOHN RYAN
Argus Africa News Service

MASERU. — A crack South African police task force stood by today to help Lesotho forces free an estimated 60 pilgrims being held hostage by gunmen on a bus while the Pope's plane was diverted to Johannesburg, citing bad weather.

South African Foreign Minister Mr Pik Botha left Pretoria for Jan Smuts to welcome the Pope as the drama unfolded outside the British High Commission in Maseru.

Snipers wearing balaclavas had taken position in the High Commission compound earlier in the day.

Government sources said that earlier today the hijackers released a little girl with a message to the authorities.

The girl said she had been told to inform the authorities that "the police can do what they want to do".

It was unclear what the hijackers meant.

Forces on standby

Although South Africa has received no official request from Lesotho to resolve the drama, it is understood General Lekhanya made a personal and direct appeal to General Bert Wandrag, commander of the SAP's crack special task forces, in the early hours of this morning. Mr Botha confirmed that Lesotho asked for

Pope's aircraft diverted to Jan Smuts



The security forces are on standby to give advice," he said.

Members of the SAP have already taken up positions around the bus, which has a group of nuns and children as passengers

Romen Catholic church sources said here the bus was travelling together with three other vehicles carrying pilgrims to Maseru for the Pope's arrival

A nun who identified herself as Sister Rita said the bus held eight nuns, seven schoolgirls, teachers and other Roman Catholic pilgrims. She said the bus was travelling from the Daughters of Charity convent in Qacha's Nek

According to government sources, four guerrillas of the Lesotho Liberation Army have taken over the bus and passengers

Police at the scene said that the bus had been hijacked by men who had boarded it as it left Qacha'a Nek

The only demand

They apparently threatened the driver and ordered him to drive directly to the British High Commission in Maseru

So far the only demand made by the hijackers is that they be allowed into the British High Commission presumably to seek asylum

However, a man claiming to be a spokesman for the Lesotho Liberation Army telephoned the SABC news office in Bloemfontein early this morning, denying all responsibility for the hijacking

The man said the first he had heard about the drama was on the news this morning

A senior police officer at police headquarters said the Lesotho police had been excluded from handling the hijack situation

"The army are handling this one and we have been ordered to maintain the safety of the Pope," the spokesman said

British High Commissioner in Lesotho Mr John Edwards said this morning he had been informed about the incident at about 5 30 pm yesterday

Passengers' safety

"I was told that the people holding the bus wanted entry to the commission compound but I refused permission for this," he said.

He said he had not visited the scene and as far he was concerned the incident was a matter for the Lesotho authorities.

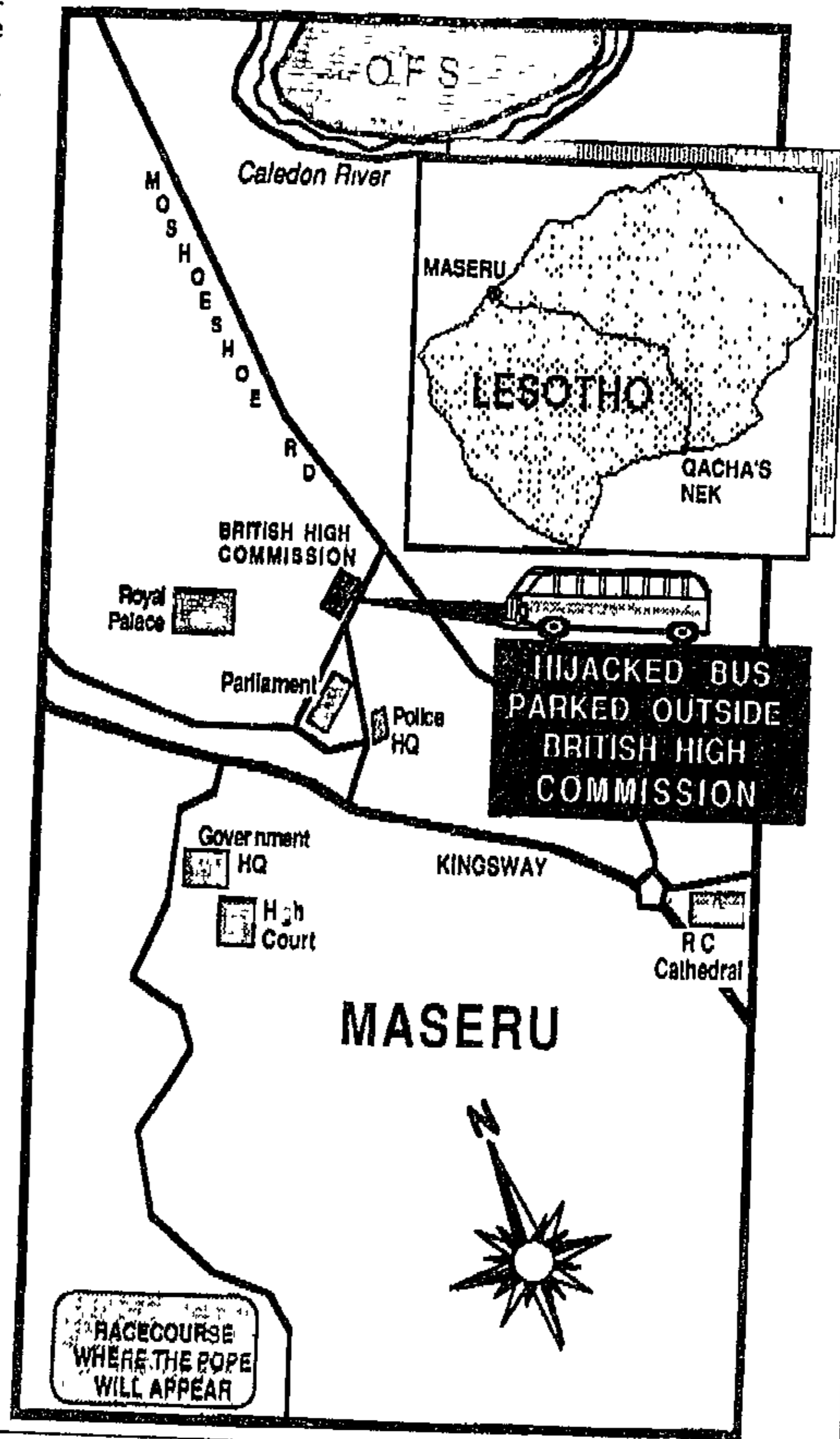
A statement issued by the Lesotho government this morning said they had the matter under control and their primary objective was the safety of the bus passengers.

"The primary objective of the government of Lesotho at this stage is the safety of the nuns and other hostages and that the visit of the Holy Father should continue undisturbed as planned," it added

The Pope had left Gaborone this morning and had been expected to land at Maseru at about 10 15.

The weather has been deteriorating since this morning and by ten o'clock this morning it was pouring with rain

HIJACK DRAMA: Snipers wearing balaclavas take up positions behind the British High Commission compound in Maseru, where hijackers are holding a busload of pilgrims who had been hoping to see Pope John Paul II.



Long ordeal is over

Four die

as police

free Lesotho hijack victims

Staff Reporters,
The Star's Africa
News Service

Wild firing by the hijackers in the Maseru bus drama apparently caused the death of one of their hostages — a schoolgirl — and injured 11 other passengers, four seriously, South African police said today.

The other hostages were freed by members of the elite South African Police task force, called in after a direct appeal by General Metsing Lekhanya, head of Lesotho's military government.

Thousands gather to see Pope John Paul

The Star's Africa
News Service

MASERU — Under clearing skies, thousands of people gathered at the Maseru race course today for the main event of Pope John Paul's Southern African tour — a mass and ceremony to beatty Lesotho's first saint, Father Joseph Gerard.

After a day of heavy rain and mist that forced cancellation of most of the programme for the first day of the Pope's visit and the diversion of his plane to Johannesburg, the sun broke through today over Maseru.

Terror bus . . . this picture of the hijacked bus was taken several hours before police stormed it. Three terrorists and one hostage died in the shootout.

Nun tells how 'gentle' hijackers held 71 hostage for 31 chilling hours

By John Ryan, The Star's Africa News Service

Immediately, the gunmen ordered the driver to drive the bus through the gate of the British Consulate complex to get away from the glare

"Then there was firing from one side and then the other," said Sister Favrea. "But both sides were shooting."

During the gunfire exchanges, which lasted for more than 15 minutes, the hostages — including several children — had lain face down on the floor. There was no panic, no screaming

When the shooting was over, the hostages climbed through a broken window to safety

Of the four hijackers who held her and her 70 Catholic mission charges captive for 31 hours, Sister Favrea said "I feel no bitterness towards them

"They wanted peace in Lesotho, that's all. They had some reasons for doing what they did and they thought their reasons were good. All four hijackers behaved with decency

"They spoke gently with us. They even had pills to treat people with headaches and tummy problems"

Sometimes, their captives had joined in the hostages' prayers and the singing. During that time, they had let four hostages go free — a teacher, a crippled boy and two sick girls

The hijackers had also released a nun with a message about their demands to meet Pope John Paul II and King Moshoeshoe and to try to negotiate an end to military rule in Lesotho

ESCAPE

Another hostage, a man aged about 40, escaped through a window of the bus earlier yesterday

Sister Favrea, who has lived in Lesotho for 37 years, said the ordeal on Tuesday began three hours after the bus had left the mission of Christ the King at Quacha's Neck

The four men, armed with an AK47 rifle, a 9 mm pistol and a hand grenade, said "they would only kill us if they didn't get what they wanted"

At about 4 pm the man who appeared to be the leader of the hijackers went to the door of the bus and shouted again the demands made earlier

"Then nothing happened until we saw this big spotlight

"The men began talking together, saying it was dangerous. Then they told the driver to move the bus out of the light. And soon the shooting started"



Terror victim . . . one of the injured hostages is taken out of an ambulance in Maseru last night.

FR FR FR

Large numbers of people, many of whom had travelled from South Africa, began gathering at the race course early today. Initial indications were, however, that the crowd would not be as large as originally expected.

The already tight security in Maseru appeared to have been made even tighter following the hijack drama.

According to unconfirmed reports, traffic was being held up at the Maseru bridge border post by close checking of passports.

ULULATING

Shortly before the service was due to start, thousands of smartly dressed people could be seen flocking towards the venue for miles across the veld.

People were standing on rooftops to watch and women were ululating.

Predominant among the crowds were the purple cloaked women of St Anne's, the Catholic Women's organisation in Lesotho.

South Africans who travelled through the border last night said there had been a massive crush at the border post, which was closed between 10pm and 6am this morning.

Buses and cars queued for miles, they said.

Entrepreneurs with roadside stalls who had been there for weeks hoping to make a killing were asleep when the bulk of the crowd arrived.

Security at the race course site was strict, with a large contingent of heavily armed soldiers and police evident.

Bodies

One of the bodies was said to have been without legs.

Earlier, the hijackers of the bus — carrying 71 Lesotho pilgrims — demanded an audience with the Pope and King Moshoeshoe II before they would release their hostages.

However at a press conference yesterday afternoon the secretary of the ruling military council, Mr Tom Thabane, rejected their demands.

Mr Thabane denied that a South African specialist task force had been drafted into Maseru to deal with the situation.

Mr Thabane said that the Pontiff had been informed of the situation while still in Botswana and had decided to go ahead with his trip to Lesotho as planned.

He said that negotiations with the hijackers had revealed nothing of their intentions until early yesterday morning when one of the hostages made a dramatic escape from the bus.

The hostage told police there were four gunmen, armed with an AK-47, a 9 mm pistol and grenades.

Later in the morning the gunmen released another hostage with a demand that a Catholic priest be sent to them. A priest later delivered a note demanding the interviews with the Pope, the king and two former members of the Basotho Congress Party, Mr Godfrey Kousang and Chief Maroala Molapo.

● See Page 3.

4 die in hijack drama

REPORTS, pictures and comment in this edition may be censored in terms of the Government's state of emergency.

FOUR people died and 11 were injured in the hijack drama in Maseru last night when South African police and hijackers clashed, police said.

A police spokesman in Pretoria said three hijackers and a young woman hostage were

killed when the hijackers drove the bus through the closed gates of the British Embassy in Maseru

The hijackers started shooting shortly after bumping the gates open, the spokesman said.

Police returned the fire, killing three hijackers

A young woman was also killed and 11 other hostages injured, four seriously

The fourth hijacker was arrested

"The casualties were apparently caused by the wild firing of the

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15/9/88 (167) Smaetun

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Hijack bus — shots fired

• From page 1

hijackers, the spokesman said

No South African Police members were injured

Lesotho's military government had requested South African help in handling the hijacking.

Panic-stricken civilians fled from around the area, which had been sealed off by security men all day

The shooting erupted at 7,23pm, about 15 minutes after the Pope's motorcade had driven through the capital under South African Police escort, passing less than a kilometre from the hijack bus

Black guerillas commandeered the bus on Tuesday evening, holding its pilgrim passengers, nuns and children, hostage and demanding the Pope meet them

Earlier the hijackers of the bus demanded an audience with both the Pope and King Moshoeshe II of Lesotho before they would release their hostages

However, at a Press conference the Secretary of the ruling Military Council, Mr Tom Thabane, rejected their demands saying "the

CPK News 15/9/88 167

Pope in Lesotho after SA trip

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — Pope John Paul II arrived in Lesotho last night by car after a six-hour diversion via Jan Smuts Airport, where he had to leave his aircraft for an unexpected venture on to South African territory

His Air Zimbabwe 737, travelling from Gaborone, was forced to land at Jan Smuts yesterday by low cloud over Lesotho. It was the first time in his worldwide travels that the Pontiff's plane had been diverted to another country.

But His Holiness did not kiss the tarmac, as he customarily does the first time he visits a country.

Women gasped and onlookers scrambled forward when the Pope walked through the international arrivals lounge, flanked by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Pik Botha.

An SAA Airbus was put on standby to enable the Pope to continue his Southern African tour should the Air Zimbabwe jetliner remain grounded.

Mr Botha said that although the plane was diverted because of bad weather in Maseru, it was believed there were problems with one of its engines and the navigational system.

Several of the Pope's aides had discussions with Mr Botha during which they were given the option of waiting for the weather to clear or



POPE LEAVES . The Foreign Minister, Mr P. Botha, sees off the Pope as he leaves South Africa by road for Lesotho.

to go by road. They had unservedly chosen the latter and more reliable option.

The Pope's visit came as a surprise to everyone, not least of all President P. W. Botha, who Mr Botha said had learnt of it only

about 30 minutes before the plane touched down.

Mr Botha was sent by the State President to greet the pontiff as his plane arrived at 11.15am.

Mr P. Botha said he was told of the papal plane's detour during

discussions with the Minister of Law and Order in Pretoria over the hijack in Maseru of which he had informed the Pope.

The Pope sent a telegram to President Botha in which he said he prayed for peace in the country

The President, who had also conveyed greetings through Mr Botha, phoned him at the airport to thank him for the message.

Mr Botha said it had been a privilege for SA to offer the Pope hospitality and he denied it had been done to gain favourable publicity abroad.

During a short lunch together they had discussed the recent state visit to Mozambique and Malawi and the ceasefire in Angola, Mr Botha said. There was no time to discuss a future official Papal visit to SA, he said.

After lunch, the Pope walked down a corridor, waving at journalists and the cheering public, to his waiting car shortly after 2pm.

He was guided to a bulletproof, luxury car ahead of his party who were travelling in two luxury buses — the transport was requested at the last minute by Mr Botha.

SA gave full security and traffic assistance to the party on the six-hour journey to Maseru. The Pope was accompanied in his car by papal secretary of state Cardinal Casaroli.

On his arrival in Maseru, the Pope was to travel direct to Roma to hold a Mass. The traditional welcome for the Pope at Thaba Bosiu, the Basutu national shrine, had to be cancelled and hundreds of people waiting at Maseru's airport for his arrival left disappointed.

BLOODY SHOOT

Chr. Times 15/9/80 167



POPE IN SA . . . Pope John Paul at Jan Smuts Airport yesterday with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Pik Botha Picture REUTERS

MASERU. — Four people died and 11 were injured in the papal hijack drama here last night when crack South African police task force members and four heavily armed hijackers fought a brief but bloody gun battle.

All but one of the 69 hostage pilgrims were rescued during the action

A Pretoria police spokesman said three hijackers and a young woman hostage were killed in a hail of bullets when the hijackers drove the bus through the closed gates of the British High Commission in Maseru

The pilgrims mostly schoolchildren accompanied by eight nuns were held hostage without food, water or toilet facilities for more than 26 hours while the hijackers made various demands, including an audience with the Pope

The hostages had set out from Qacha's Nek mission about 120km south east of Maseru on Tuesday to see the Pontiff during his visit to the mountain kingdom, but their bus was commandeered by the hijackers as it left for the capital

Wild firing

Police said the hijackers started shooting at about 7.25pm as they smashed through the commission's gates, not more than 10 minutes after the papal motorcade passed through Maseru

SAP task force members, their faces blackened and heads covered in balaclavas, returned the fire, killing three hijackers. Several bursts of automatic gunfire were heard during the 10-minute shootout

Of the 11 injured hostages, four were reported to be serious

The fourth hijacker was arrested after the bus came to a halt against one of the commission's walls

"The casualties were apparently caused by the wild firing of the hijackers," the police spokesman said, adding that none of the task force members was injured

The hijackers are believed to be members of the Lesotho Liberation Army, although a man claiming to represent the LLA yesterday denied that his organization was responsible

By early today the Pope had not yet reacted to the news of the shootout, but the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Pik Botha, said earlier that the Pontiff hoped that the hijack drama would end without bloodshed "which would be painful to his Holiness"



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On the other pages

- Secret task force always ready to move — Page 2
- City journalist tells of Pope's harrowing flight — Page 5
- Pope in Lesotho after SA trip — Page 5

Four die as police free bus hostages

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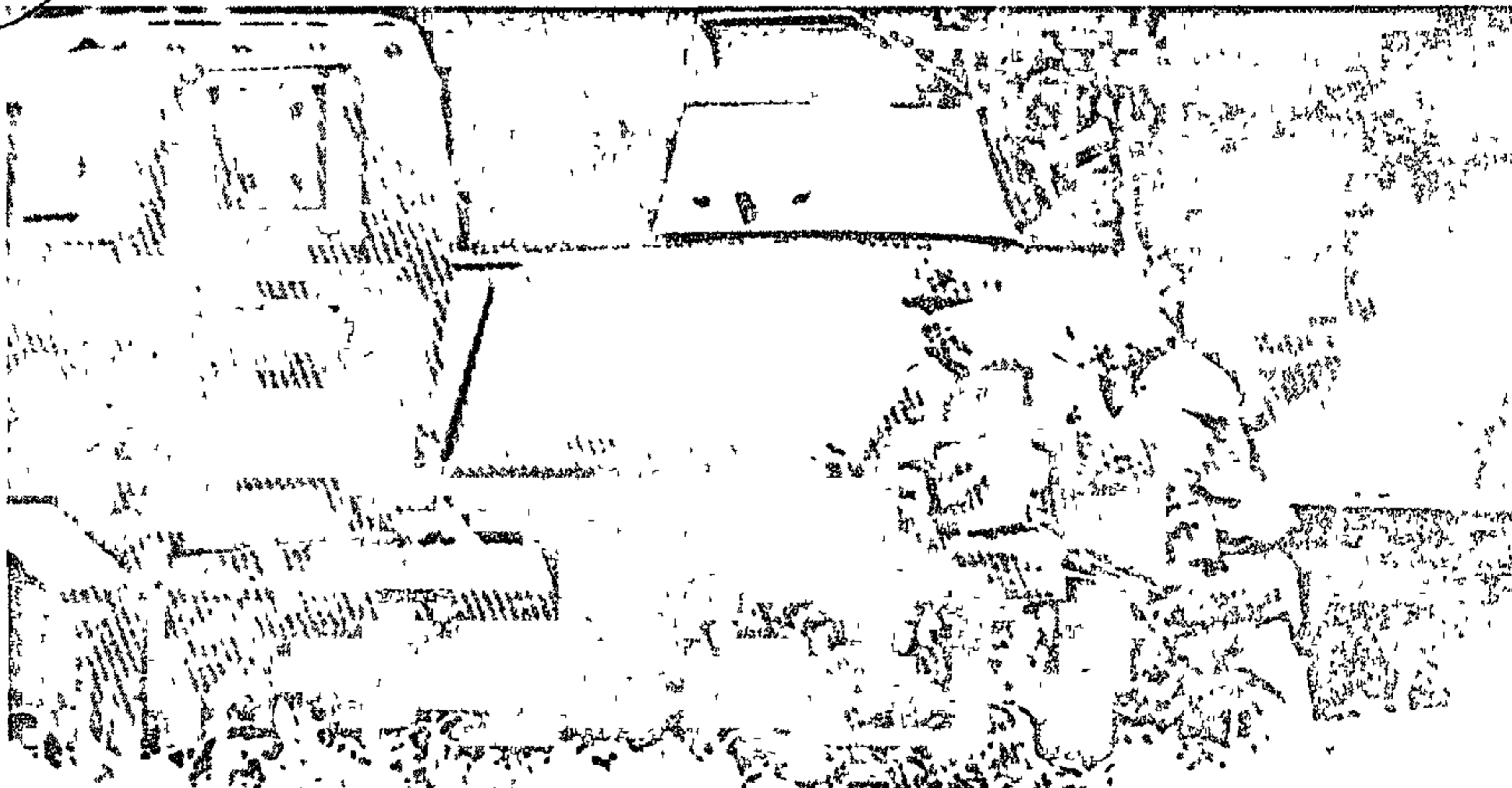
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HOSTAGE SCENE — Lesotho soldiers surround the British embassy where the bus hostage drama took place last night
Picture: REUTERS

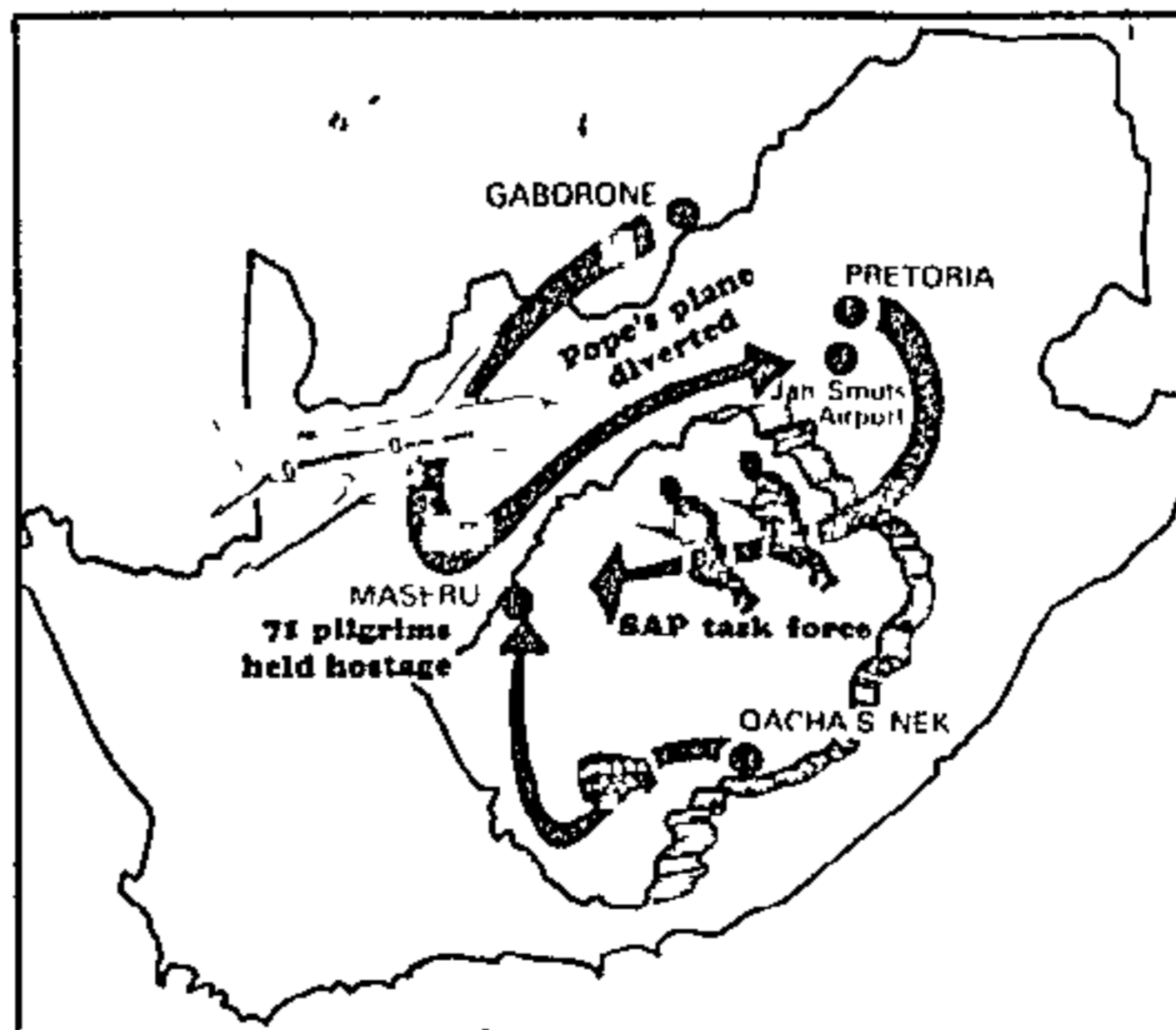
Hours after the shooting ended, confusion reigned on the streets of Maseru with local officials refusing to give any details of the gun battle

In the gun battle's aftermath, Lesotho police smashed photographers' cameras and pointed rifles at reporters trying to get to the scene

Witnesses said that only SAP task force members were directly involved in the shootout, with Lesotho armed forces playing an auxiliary role in cordoning off the area

An employee of a nearby hospital said only three of the dead, apparently all hijackers, had been admitted

A fourth man was seen by reporters walking into the hospital helped by nurses and under police



Top news in UK

LONDON — The hijack drama in Lesotho and the Pope's unscheduled stop in South Africa was the main item on British television and radio news bulletins last night — Sapa

Nerve-gas factory

WASHINGTON — US intelligence agencies believe Libyan leader Colonel Moammar Gaddafi has built a factory capable of turning out deadly nerve gas and mustard gas, sources confirmed — UPI

Cont ↓

guard The hospital employee identified him as the surviving hijacker

Another six people, all apparently hostages and including a nun and a child, were admitted to the hospital with injuries, some serious, the hospital employee said

By 7.45pm a huge spotlight was turned on the scene of the shootout, lighting up the gates and the British High Commission compound Several flares were also fired

Commands given in Afrikaans could clearly be heard, as could a child's voice calling out in Sotho

Sapa-Reuter reported that minutes after the shooting erupted, Reuter photographer Guy Tillim saw police aboard the bus, searching through it with torches

There was shooting in the vicinity of the bus earlier yesterday when one of the hostages, a teenage boy, escaped through a window One other hostage, believed to be a nun, was released

The hijackers arrived outside the offices of the British High Commission in Linare Road, next to the Lesotho police headquarters, at about 5pm on Tuesday. They asked, but were refused, permission to enter the compound

Father Paul Matlosa, who was the parish priest at the Qacha's Nek diocese until May this year, said the hostages were all from that area.

"During my four years there I was the one who encouraged them to come and see the Pope They were reluctant at

first because they were scared of the crowds that would be there.

"Three busloads of pilgrims left Qacha's Nek at about 5am Tuesday morning The hijacked bus was ahead of the other two and the others said they never saw anything," he said

He said police told him the hijackers said they would only talk when they were in the grounds of the British High Commission

"They also told police they would kill everyone on the bus if anyone tried to interfere with them "

Earlier Mr Tom Thabane, secretary to Lesotho's ruling military council, said the armed men demanded to see Pope John Paul II, whose visit was delayed by bad weather which diverted his aircraft to South Africa

He described the request to see the Pope as ridiculous and said Lesotho's King Moshoeshe, with whom the guerillas also sought an audience "would never agree to see anybody under these circumstances"

The dead included three of the gunmen and one woman hostage who was shot and killed "by accident," Ms Mpina Tente, a spokeswoman for Lesotho's ruling military council, told reporters

Ms Tente said security forces opened fire when the hijackers attempted to ram the gate of the British High Commission and shot at the commandos. A three-minute battle in darkness sent hostages diving for cov-

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This operation had to be done because they were forcing the gates into the High Commission and they also shot first," she said.

The hijackers were armed with an AK-47 automatic rifle, a 9mm pistol and several hand grenades, officials said

"When the shooting began we lay down on the seats or we would have been shot too. It happened so quickly," said 63-year-old Sister Blanche Favrea, a nun aboard the hijacked bus

A total of 71 passengers were listed on the bus, among them 36 schoolchildren, eight nuns, 17 women and 10 men. Sister Favrea said four hostages were released during the day — a crippled boy, a sick girl, a nun and a teacher

"All of us who were going in the bus thought they (the hijackers) were coming for the Pope visit," said Sister Favrea, a native of Quebec who has lived in Lesotho since 1951

"They were very kind and spoke gently with us," she said of the hijackers, who identified themselves as members of the Lesotho Liberation Army

The LLA was formed in 1971 to oppose the former government of Chief Leabua Jonathan, who was desposed by in a bloodless 1986 coup led by Maj-Gen Justin Lekhanya, present leader of the military council

Military Council secretary Mr Tom Thabane said the hijacking was "splattering mud" on the papal visit — Sapa-Reuter-AP and UP

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15/9/83
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Gun battle mars visit

POPE John Paul's visit to Lesotho has been marred by a hostage drama in which four people were killed

Shortly after he drove through the capital of Maseru last night, South African special forces freed pilgrims from a hijacked bus in a gun battle

Four black guerrillas demanding to see the Pope had hijacked the bus and seized 69 hostages, including 36 schoolchildren, nuns and other pilgrims. They held the hostages who were travelling to see the Pope in Maseru, without food or water for more than 24 hours

The hijack came to an end when three of the guerrillas were killed and a hostage — a girl student — died in the 10-minute battle

with a special anti-guerrilla task force called in from South Africa, said police in Pretoria

The South African forces took action when the hijackers, with guns blazing, tried to crash the bus with its hostages through the locked gates of the British High Commission

Fifteen minutes earlier Pope John Paul, who is on a five-nation tour of Africa, had passed less than a kilometre from the scene

The fighting left 11 people injured, four seriously, South African police said. The wounded included a nun. One of the gunmen, who claimed to be members of the outlawed opposition Lesotho Liberation Army (LLA), was taken alive

"There were white police with blacked-out faces all over the place," said one reporter

From BRENDAN BOYLE in Maseru

who got close to the vehicle shortly afterwards. "The bus windows were all shot out but the pilgrims' suitcases were still roped to the roof"

The gunmen seized the bus after it had left the Lesotho mountains on Tuesday at the start of the pilgrims' journey to see the Pope

The guerrillas' demands — to meet the Pope, to enter the British mission and to meet Lesotho's King Moshoeshoe — were all refused. Instead the military rulers of the kingdom called in expert South African support

In the aftermath of the shooting, Lesotho police smashed photographers' cameras and pointed rifles at reporters trying to get to the scene

Crowds fled in panic as tracer bullets and flares lit up the sky. Ambulances carried away bodies, but there was no word of the whereabouts of the freed hostages

The Pope was kept closely informed of the drama and the bloodshed which marred his visit to the fervently Roman Catholic landlocked mountain kingdom, said Father Paul Emile Charron, a spokesman for the church in Lesotho

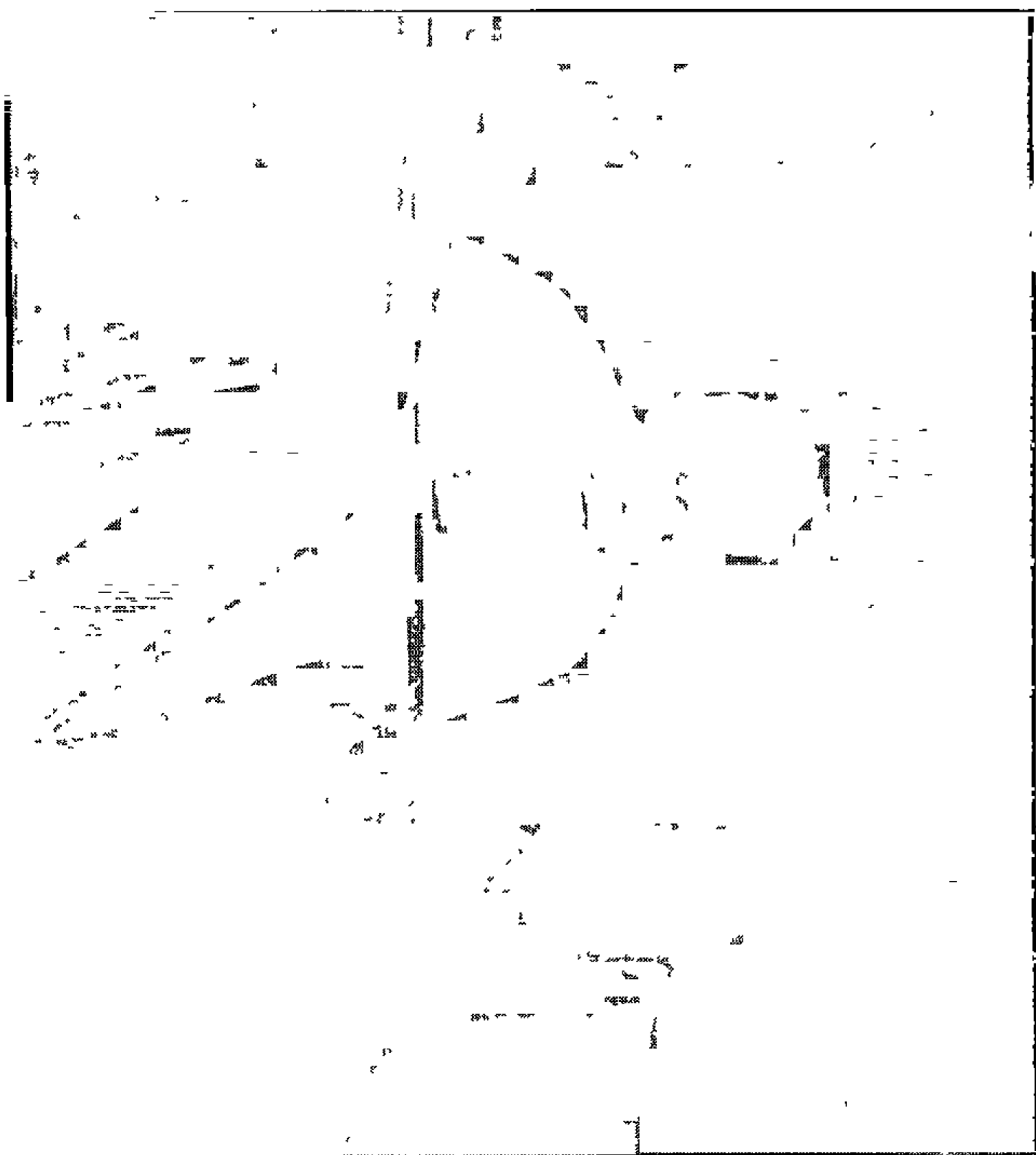
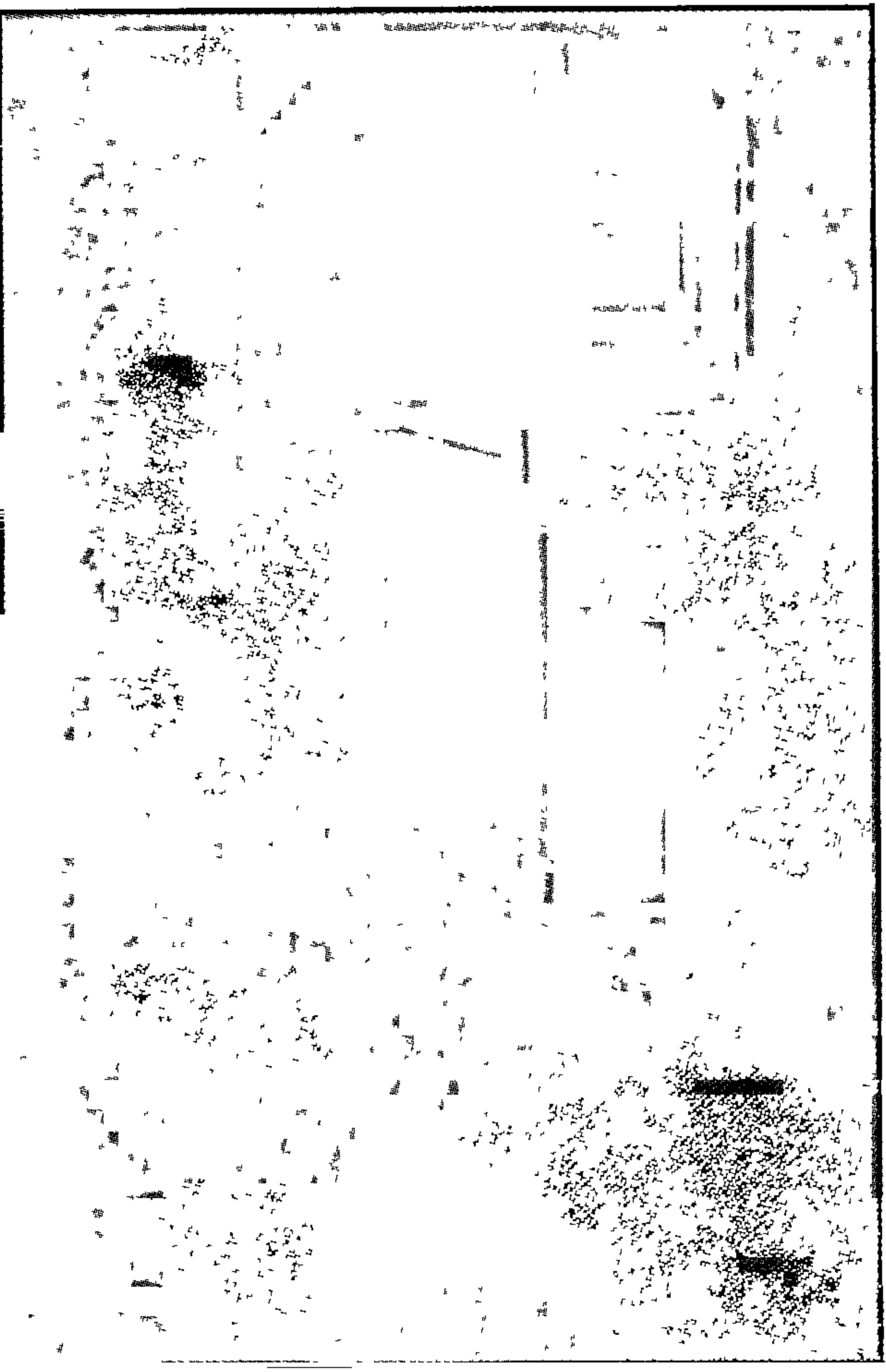
"It has been a very sad day," he said. Pope John Paul passed through Maseru on his way by car from Johannesburg, bound

northwards for the mission station of Roma, just before the guerrillas' attempt to enter the British mission provoked the battle which ended the hijack

He had been forced by bad weather over Maseru to make an unscheduled landing in South Africa, where he had an unscheduled lunch with Foreign Minister Pk Botha

Late yesterday there was still no confirmation that the hijackers were members of the LLA, the military wing of the Basotho-land Congress Party, which was driven into exile in 1970

Until the 1986 coup which brought Lesotho's military to power, the LLA had made periodic guerrilla attacks in the country — Sapa-Reuter



15/9/88

A tired Pope John Paul II arrives in Maseru.

SAP escort the Pope to Lesotho

By DAVID BRAUN of The Argus Political Staff

THE South African Police were responsible for taking Pope John Paul II to Lesotho safely after the Pontiff's aircraft could not land in Maseru because of bad weather.

According to government sources, the Pope was driven in one of Foreign Minister Pik Botha's armoured limousines by an SAP driver. The journey from Jan Smuts Airport, where the papal aircraft had been diverted, took six hours.

Security police were in numerous cars in front and behind the papal motorcade, which included other cars and three hired buses.

A police helicopter hovered overhead for the entire journey to ensure that the Pope's journey would go without a hitch.

Local traffic police in the various towns the Pope travelled through were called out to ensure the smooth flow of the motorcade.

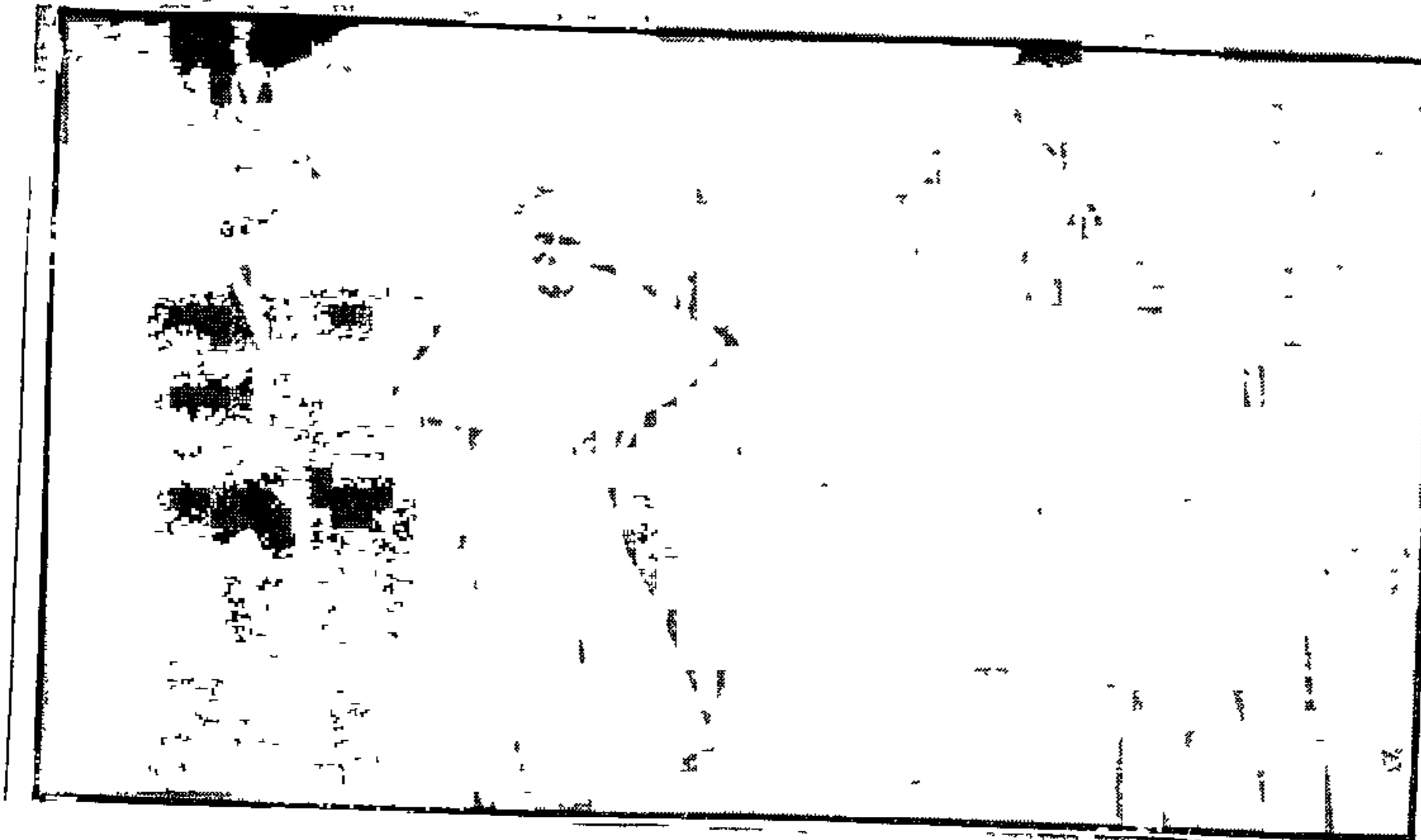
The road was secured by

the police many kilometres ahead of the Pope.

Security was so tight that diplomats were nervous when a media helicopter joined the papal caravan.

"Don't shoot down that helicopter; it is a friendly one," the Department of Foreign Affairs signalled the police, according to sources.

Three thousand people crammed the narrow road at the Caledon Bridge border post, ululating wildly, when the Pope arrived in Lesotho.



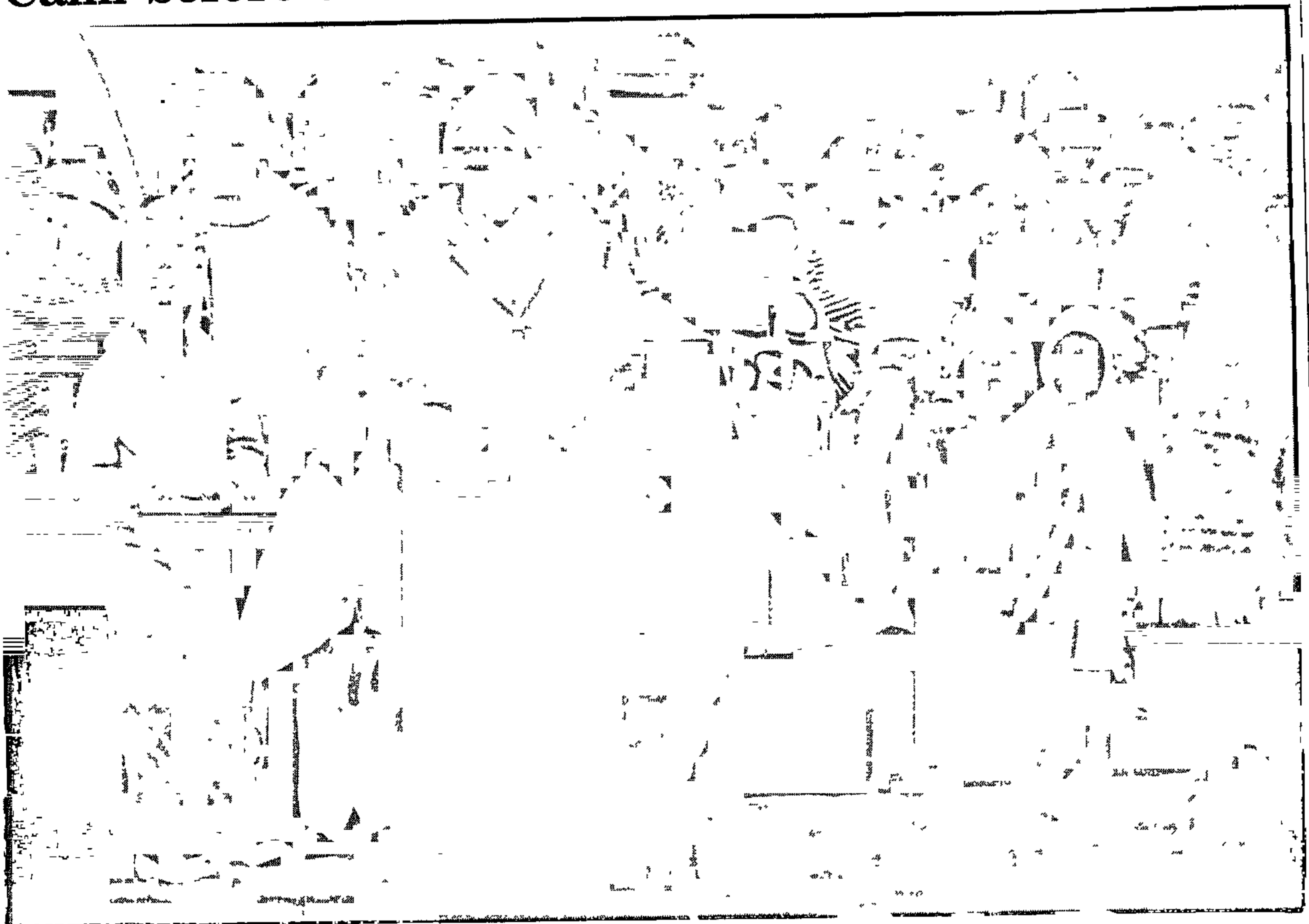
ABOVE: Two heavily armed soldiers of the Lesotho army keeping watch on the hijacked bus carrying nuns and schoolchildren in the capital of Maseru.

The bloody shootout began after the Pope's motorcade passed about a kilometre away.

LEFT: The South African Foreign Minister, Mr Pik Botha, extreme left, with the Pontiff earlier in Johannesburg.

The Pope's aircraft had had to turn back from Lesotho because of bad weather.

Calm before the storm in the mountain kingdom . . .



Basotho wait patiently for the Pope to arrive in Maseru.

Pontiff prays at Father Joseph Gerard's grave

THE change in the Pope's Lesotho arrangements last night were fortuitous for Roma, where he had his first public engagement in Father Joseph Gerard's church.

He had been scheduled to meet King Moshoeshoe at Thaba Bosiu, Lesotho's national shrine, at 1.30pm yesterday. But the bad weather that had caused his aircraft to be diverted delayed his arrival by nearly nine hours.

After a five-hour drive from Jan Smuts Airport, he crossed the Lesotho border just before 7pm to find

The Argus Africa News Service reports

crowds of blanketed people waiting in the cold and wet for him.

He stopped briefly to speak to them and then pressed on to Roma about 20km away to celebrate mass.

Father Gerard, the missionary the Pope came to beatify, started his evangelical work in the village and it seemed fitting that the Pontiff should begin his pastoral visit to Lesotho there.

Thousands of people waited outside the church in the mud and drizzle to meet the Pope. His welcome inside the church was ear-shattering and spontaneous.

Before celebrating mass he went to the adjoining chapel to pray at the grave of Father Gerard. When he returned to the church, he looked obviously tired, but this did not stop him blessing and greeting the people who had waited hours to see him.

The Pope's journey across the Free State, escorted by a convoy of traffic cars with lights flashing and South African security police, had marked a day which, even by papal standards, was amazing.

The adventure, if it can be called that, started at Gaborone at 5.30am yesterday when the accompanying journalists heard for the first time of the hijacking of the bus carrying nuns and children on the way to see the Pope in Maseru.

Just before 2pm they were shepherded on to buses in Johannesburg on the non-stop journey to Maseru.

'Slightly hurt' when arrested

Hijacker's death a mystery

167
SMA
16/9/88

By Ken Vernon,
The Star's Africa News Service

Maseru

Mystery surrounds the death of a hijacker arrested by the Lesotho authorities when South African and Lesotho security forces stormed a hijacked bus carrying papal visit pilgrims in Maseru on Wednesday.



Hat trick the Pope proves he has a head for fashion by wearing a Basotho outfit

Three of the four hijackers died in the initial shoot-out between the hijackers and the security forces, but the fourth gunman was reported by the Lesotho government to have been only slightly injured when captured.

But last night the secretary of the ruling Military Council in Lesotho, Mr Tom Thabane, confirmed that the fourth hijacker was dead.

He was reported to have been held in police custody and there is no indication that his injuries were serious enough to have required hospitalisation.

South African newspapers today quoted reliable sources as having said last night, in giving a detailed account of the shoot-out, that the fourth hijacker was found among the hostages who escaped from the bus after the shooting. The bus passengers had pointed him out to the security forces.

Another hostage died yesterday of wounds received during the storming of the bus, bringing the death toll from the rescue operation to six.

Questioned on the fourth hijacker's sudden death and asked why the government had not issued any information after his capture, Mr Thabane said "the first priority had been to get as much information as possible from the man".

Asked if this meant that the man had died during interrogation, he said that only the police could answer that question.

When contacted this morning the Commissioner of Police in Lesotho, Major-General J.L. Dingiswayo, said he had no knowledge of the particulars of the man's death but would try to obtain the necessary information.

Other government comment could not be obtained this morning as senior officials were all at the King Moshoeshoe I Airport for the departure of Pope John Paul II.

Previously the Lesotho government had linked the hostage drama to the papal visit saying it had been carried out to "throw mud" on the Lesotho government during the visit of the Pope.

● See Pages 3 and 9.

The Pope blesses his people



He came, he saw, he conquered ... Pope John Paul II casts aside the traumas of the last few days to bless the small crowd which greeted him in Maseru yesterday.

● Picture by Ken Oosterbroek.

Full story of Lesotho bus drama

"It was like a full-scale war when the moment came to end the bus hijack," a security source closely involved in this week's Lesotho drama has revealed

A blow-by-blow account of the hijack, and the fateful shoot-out that brought it to a bloody end, has been released

According to sources, South Africa's Police Task Force was in grave danger at the climax of the drama as dozens of Lesotho policemen and soldiers fired wildly in all directions

"There were tracers in the sky, bullets in the ground, all over the place The South Africans thought they were going to die," the source said

There was pandemonium for three minutes before a flare fired by one of the SAP members ended the shooting

Here are details of the events that culminated in the tragic shoot-out, which resulted in the deaths of six people (the four hijackers and two hostages) and many others being wounded

Tuesday plus-minus 2 30 pm
A busload of pilgrims including nuns and schoolchildren, on their way to Maseru to see Pope John Paul II, is flagged down by four men in civilian clothing at Mhale's Hoek, 50 km inside the Lesotho border

The men ask for a lift to Maseru Some of the passengers grumble but the men are allowed on board

The bus restarts and, after a time, one of the four men pulls out an AK-47 assault rifle and four magazines of ammunition

Another man has a pistol and a third a hand grenade

The fourth man starts to assemble a large explosive device, believed by experts to be a bomb (although it is still being examined)

He attaches the bomb to the door at the front of the bus From the bomb is a wire that leads to a red light mounted on the dashboard of the bus The light burns to show that the weapon is armed

The man rolls out an electric lead from the bomb down the centre aisle to the back of the bus, where it is attached to two PM-9 batteries and an electric switch

The bus and its petrified pas-

● To Page 9, Col 1

Full story of Lesotho bus hijack drama

From Page 1

seengers carry on to Maseru En route there is a Lesotho police roadblock.

The hijackers order the driver to ignore it and police fire at the bus.

Plus-minus 6 pm The bus pulls up at the gates of the British High Commission in Maseru. The hijackers ask permission to enter the premises and this is refused.

Lesotho security forces arrive and cordon off the area.

ASSISTANCE PLEA

Plus-minus midnight The head of Lesotho's military government Major General Meising Lelehaaya, telephones SA Defence Force chief, General Janne Geldenhuys and asks for assistance from South Africa.

General Geldenhuys telephones the Minister of Law and Order Mr Adrian Vlok, and the Commissioner of the SA Police, General Henne de Witt.

The commander of the SAP Task Force General Bert Wandrag, is called.

General Wandrag telephones General Lelehaaya and asks for full details.

A unit of the Task Force, one of several stationed at strategic locations around the country, boards an aircraft for Lesotho.

The unit like the others, is on 24-hour standby. It comprises highly trained professionals who are equipped and ready for any contingency.

The Task Force has been used successfully several times in emergencies, including the crushing of last year's coup d'etat in Bophuthatsana.

The unit bound for Maseru includes sharpshooters trained to kill a hijacker with one shot.

Wednesday plus minus 4 am The Task Force takes up positions around the bus.

During the night a woman hostage manages to escape from the bus. The hijackers shoot at her but miss.

Plus-minus 9 am General Wandrag at the scene consults Lesotho's police commissioner and security police chief.

Plus minus 10 am General Wandrag is instructed by the South African Government that in no circumstances is his unit to fire on the bus unless actions on the part of the hijackers endanger the lives of the hostages.

11 30 am A nun is released by the hijackers. She tells the SAP that the leader of the hijackers is extremely aggressive.

She also gives them an account of the explosive device.

There are 69 hostages still on the bus.

The nun tells the SAP the hijackers want a cleric to be appointed as an intermediary.

A priest is found. He goes to the bus and returns with a note (see note and caption). He tells the police he is too scared to go back.

The note lists the hijackers' demands.

A new intermediary, the Rev John Khutlong, volunteers. Police later describe him as a hero.

3 15 pm The hijackers release two more hostages — a handicapped person and an elderly man. There are 67 hostages still on the bus.

5 pm Mr Khutlong returns to the Task Force and says the hijackers want water and a doctor.

DOCTOR FOUND

Mr Khutlong delivers water to the bus and goes to find a doctor.

Members of the Task Force have been observing the hijackers through the telescopic sights of their rifles. They have noted that the man with the grenade has removed the pin and is holding the grenade's lever down.

5 30 pm A female hostage is released, leaving 66 behind.

Police switch on floodlights and the hijackers show signs of anger and distress at the bright lights.

Plus-minus 7 pm Pope John Paul, at the end of a long drive from Jan Smuts Airport, passes a few hundred metres from the bus.

7 35 pm The bus engine is started and the bus rams through a locked gate at the entrance to the British High Commission.

The hijacker standing in front of the bus next to the driver sees policemen in the grounds of the



Some of those who attended the ceremony amid the otherwise deserted tents

High Commission and starts shooting wildly.

Members of the Task Force kill three of the hijackers.

The bus crosses a ditch and crashes into a wall.

The grenade, released by a hijacker, explodes in the bus. Most of the injuries to the hostages are caused by the blast. One man, now in Bloemfontein hospital, has had to have his legs amputated.

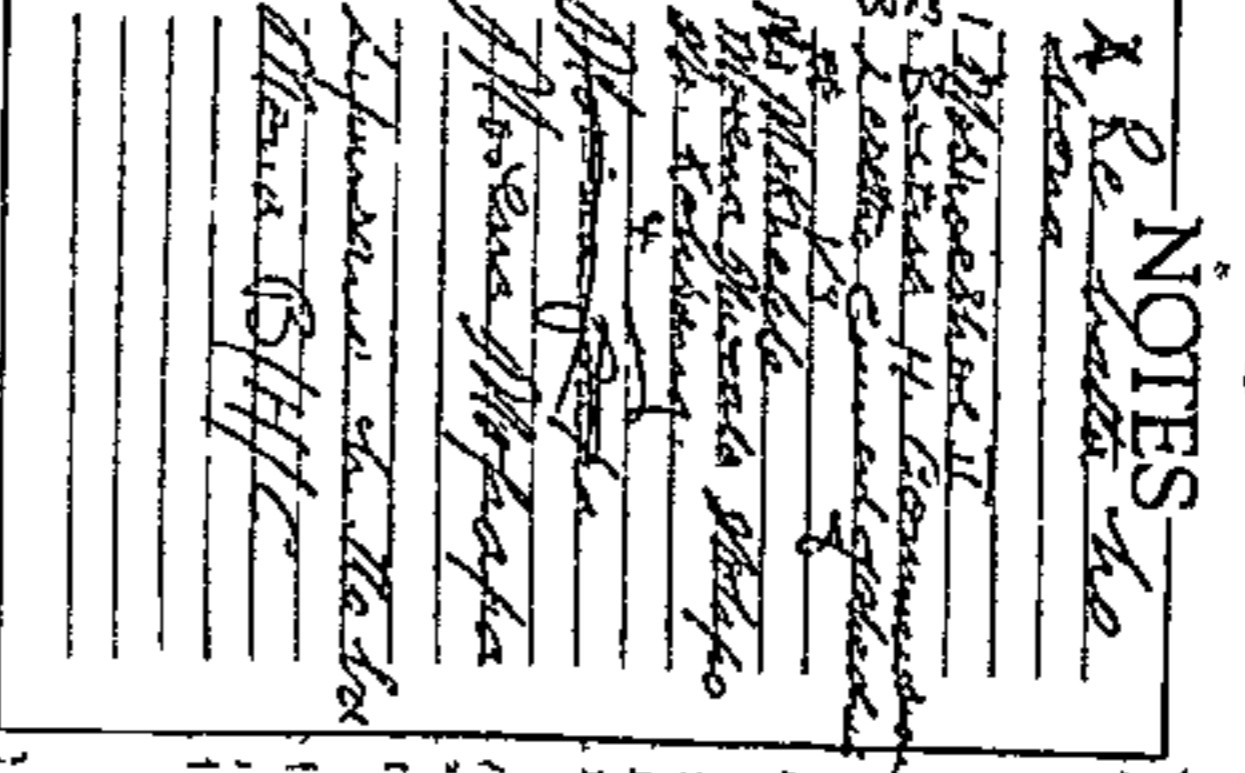
The hijacker standing in front of the bus next to the driver sees policemen in the grounds of the

The Lesotho hijackers' demands were scribbled on notepaper.

The note says at the top "We want to see 1 (the king of Lesotho) Moshoeu I, 2 British High Commissioner, 3 Lesotho Council of Churches."

The next line apparently means "Ver sur", then "1 Mr Mokhele (the leader of the Lesotho Liberation Army), 2 Morena Meroal Molepo, 3 Mr Koussang". (The last two names are former members of the Basotho Congress Party).

The next line, "Morena Mopope", is the Pope, John Paul II. The last line says "all these people must come to the British High Commission".



NOTES Scribbled demands

Hijackers' firing triggered police action

By Dawn Barkhuizen, The Star's Africa News Service

MASERU — The security forces who stormed the hijacked bus would have been prepared to wait it out if the hijackers had not started the bus moving and begun firing.

This was said yesterday by Mr Tom Thabane, secretary of the military council that rules Lesotho, after the bus drama had ended.

Three hijackers and one hostage were killed and 11 people injured in the incident. One of the

injured hostages died subsequently in hospital.

The other hostages were freed by members of the elite South African Police task force, called in after a direct appeal by General Matsung Lelehaaya, head of Lesotho's military government.

Shooting began minutes after Pope John Paul passed through Maseru at 7 30 pm on Wednesday.

Mr Thabane said it had not been established yet who had been responsible for the death of the hostages, but the three hijackers had been killed by members of the Royal Lesotho Defence Force and police.

Van moord't havo droom hmoath in

VEHICLE WITH

169 5000 16/9/88

Tutu 'did not blame SA for hijacking'

16/9/88

(167) Staff Reporters

Archbishop Desmond Tutu did not tell the BBC that he suspected South Africa had staged the Maseru bus hijacking during the Pope's visit to Lesotho, his media secretary, Mr John Allen, said today.

Mr Allen said the BBC yesterday misquoted Archbishop Tutu to the Foreign Minister, Mr Pik Botha, and had later issued a correction.

Archbishop Tutu had "merely relayed misgivings raised by members of the black community that it might have been a put-up job", he said.

Some people had told the archbishop they were unhappy with the high profile the South African Government played in the unscheduled visit of the Pope to South Africa on Wednesday, and they "distrusted Government actions and policies".

In this context they had raised their suspicions that the bus hostage drama had been stage-managed, he said.

Mr Botha today dismissed as "laughable" suggestions that South Africa had staged the hijack.

Mixing clerical with secular

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some
16/9/87

Is there a role for the Church in a state with such Marxist policies and aspirations as Zimbabwe? **ROBIN DREW** of The Star's Africa News Service reports on this relationship in the wake of Pope John Paul's visit earlier this week

HARARE — In the aftermath of the Pope's visit to Zimbabwe, Church authorities are confident that relations between Church and State have been well and truly cemented

It is sometimes forgotten that in the run-up to the independence general election in 1980, a vote for Mr Mugabe was said by his opponents to be a vote for the closure of the churches.

In a clumsy attempt to scare voters into believing this, Rhodesian security force members set off bombs at two churches in Harare and planted explosive devices which were discovered before detonation at the Roman Catholic Cathedral

As it turned out, Mr Mugabe won the election handsomely and made a practising Methodist minister, the Rev Canaan Banana, the first President of Zimbabwe.

Church-State relations seesawed in the early years of independence, but there was never any question of outlawing church activities

Relations with the Catholic Church plummeted in 1983 after the bishops condemned a reign of terror by the army in Matabeleland

Mr Mugabe countered with a scathing attack on the bishops but even then he promised never to interfere with the religious work of the Church.

No conflict

The following year, Mr Mugabe accepted an invitation to open the first meeting of Catholic bishops from nine southern African countries (Imbisa) and told the distinguished delegates that Christianity and socialism were not in conflict.

But the problem was that Mr Mugabe and his party continued to maintain that their policy was based on Marxist-Leninist principles and was intended to develop into scientific socialism

South Africa's Archbishop Denis Hurley said he could not imagine that Mr Mugabe wanted an atheistic, totalitarian state.

He agreed that in its moderate application socialism was compatible with Christianity and in fact many practices called socialism had been advocated by the major churches over the years

This week at the end of Pope John Paul's triumphant visit to Zimbabwe, President Mugabe said the visit had left Zimbabweans feeling they were at one with the Church

Devout

There are about 1 million Catholics in Zimbabwe in a population of 9 million and Mr Mugabe is one of them.

His mother is a devout Catholic and received Communion from the Pope Her son said later she was overjoyed

Mr Mugabe was educated at a Catholic mission school first by the Jesuits and then by the Marist Brothers.

It was Mr Andrew Young in the days when he was part of the Carter administration who referred to the powerful combination of forces to be found in a Jesuit-educated Marxist

Which force is stronger?

History may have to be the judge of that, but, on the face of it, Mr Mugabe's Christian upbringing and his commitment to the cause of justice, acknowledged by the Church, is on top of any theoretical Marxist conviction

President Robert Mugabe . . . a Jesuit-educated Marxist?

Riddle of fourth

hijacker's death

'First priority to get information from him'

APR 16/9/88 16-7

Argus Africa News Service
 MASERU. — Mystery surrounds the death of a hijacker arrested after South African and Leso-
 thorn security forces stormed a hijacked bus carrying pilgrims in Mas-
 eru on Wednesday.
 Three of the four hijackers died in the shootout between the hijackers and the security forces, but the fourth gunman was reported by the Lesotho government as having been only "slightly injured" when captured.
 He was reported to have been held in police custody and there was no indication that his injuries were serious enough to have required hospital treat-
 ment.
 Reliable sources were quoted today as having said last night, in a detailed account of the shootout, that the fourth hijack-
 er was found among the ferris-
 ned hostages who had escaped from the bus after the shooting.
 The bus passengers had pointed him out to the security forces.
Hostage dies
 However, last night the sec-
 retary of the ruling military council in Lesotho, Mr. Tso-
 tshane, confirmed that the fourth hijacker was dead.
 Another hostage also died yesterday of wounds received during the storming of the bus, bringing the death toll from the rescue operation to six.
 Questioned on the fourth hi-
 jacker's sudden death and asked why the government had not issued any information af-
 ter his capture, Mr. Thebane said that "the first priority had been to get as much informa-
 tion as possible from the man".
 A head if this meant that the man had died during interroga-
 tion he said that only the police could answer that question.
Departure
 When contacted today the commissioner of police in Le-
 sotho, Major-General J. L. Din-
 giswayo, said he knew no de-
 tails of the man's death but would try to find out.
 Other government comment could not be obtained as senior officials were at the King Mo-
 shoeshoe II airport for the de-
 parture of the Pope, who left for Swaziland on the fourth leg
 of his Southern African tour.
 Previously the Lesotho gov-
 ernment had linked the hostage drama to the papal visit saying it had been carried out to "throw mud" on the Lesotho government during the papal visit.

Grant

SA tried to avert hijack bus tragedy

SM
17/9/88

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DAVID BRAUN

TWO more hours were all that was needed for the possible avoidance of this week's bloody end to the Lesotho bus hijack drama.

According to highly placed sources, the South African Government came very close to finding a possible peaceful solution to the drama, in which six people were killed and others maimed and seriously injured.

While the SA Police Task Force marksmen stood in strategic positions around the bus, South African diplomats were in touch with the Transkei to round up a member of the Lesotho Liberation Army.

Four members of the LLA had earlier hijacked the bus, which was carrying 71 pilgrims from the Transkei to see the Pope.

They wired the bus with an explosive device and forced the driver to go to the residence of the British High Commissioner, where they made certain demands, including to see the Pope.

The Lesotho Government appealed to South Africa for assistance and the SA Police Task Force unit was sent in.

Behind the scenes, the South African Government urged the Transkei to round up a member of the LLA who could be sent to the four hijackers, with the message that unless they gave themselves up, all LLA members who could be found in the Transkei would be handed over to the Lesotho military government.

Bad weather, however, meant that the LLA member could not be flown to Lesotho, so he was sent by car. The same weather had prevented the Pope arriving in Lesotho by air.

Before the LLA member could be brought to Maseru, however, the hijackers forced the bus to ram the gate of the British High Commission, precipitating the shoot-out and the eventual deaths of four hijackers and two hostages.

... of its Communist ally - enemy North Korea, which is ca to

SHOT IN BRAZIL

Cuban 'attack' plan: *17/10/88*
Peace in balance

Political Staff

PRETORIA — A planned attack on Unita by Cuban forces has thrown the peace initiative in the balance and opened a real possibility that South Africa could be dragged back into the war a top government source said yesterday.

The source claimed plans of the attack had been outlined to President Mobutu Sese Sese of Zaire by a senior member of the Cuban politburo Mr Jorge Risquet. He claimed the plan is to isolate South African troops south of the Angolan Namibia border by sealing the border attack Unita and capture its capital at Jamba, and then possibly move on Zaire.

With South African troops already out of Angola since September 1 the siege is now set for the Cubans to move on Unita which according to one source will pull South Africa back into the war with what is described as "incalculable consequences".

The Zairean leader is reported to be "terrified of the possibility of a Cuban attack after being warned by Mr Risquet not to get involved". Another round of talks is scheduled on the peace initiative, but no date has yet been fixed. The SA government source said a timetable for Cuban withdrawal from Angola will once again be the stumbling block.

Last Hijacker

Killed 'in escape'

Own Correspondent

MASERU — The last surviving hijacker of the pilgrims' bus dramatised from a single bullet wound in his back, Queen Elizabeth Hospital pathologist Dr Joel Namana said yesterday.

He died "at seven" after being arrested by Lesotho police at the scene of a bloody gun battle which left three other hijackers and one hostage dead. Another hostage died later.

Dr Namana said the body of the fourth hijacker, who has been identified as Samuel Moekeles Nhlapho was brought to the mortuary at 3am on Wednesday.

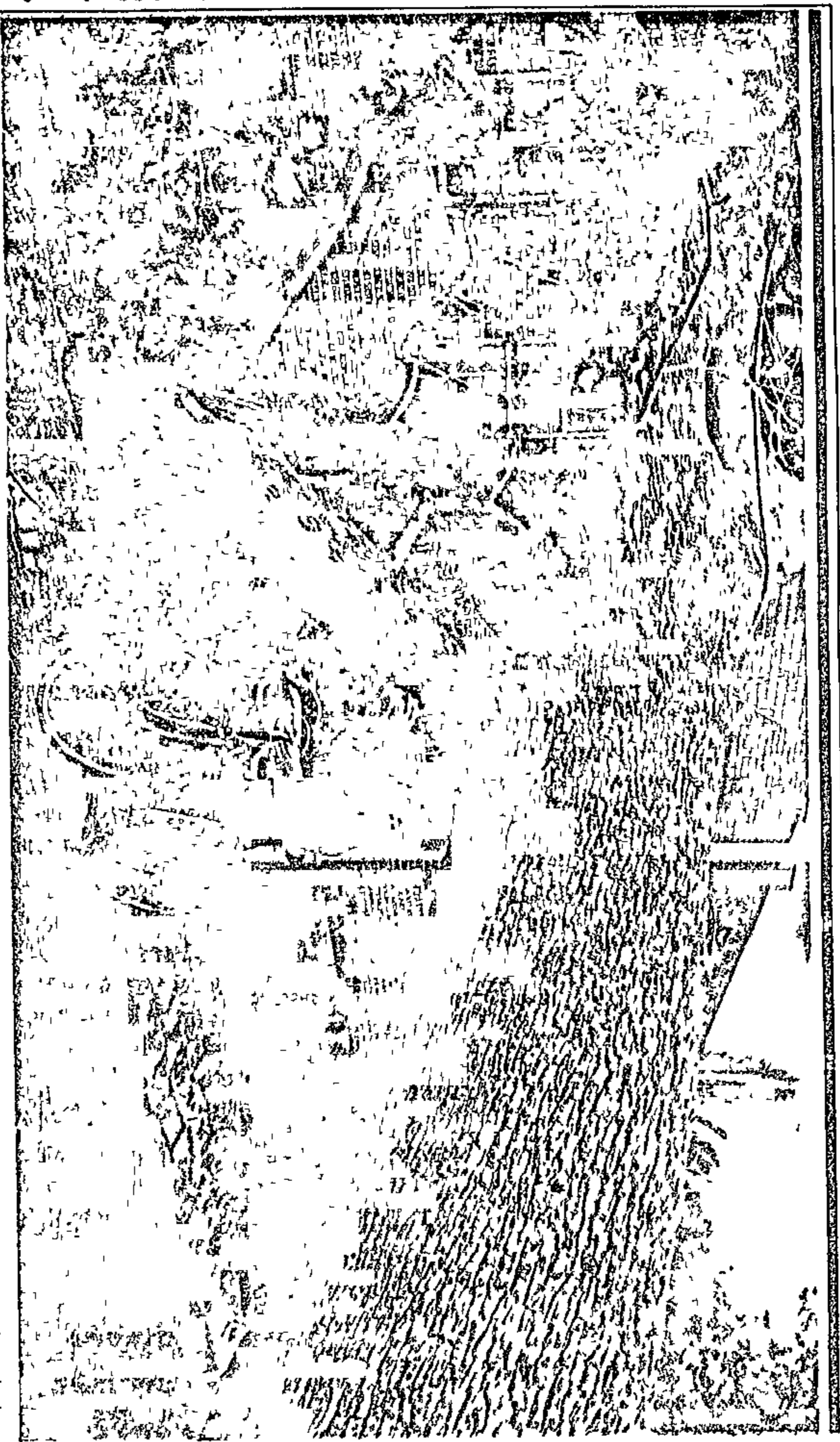
A Lesotho police spokeswoman said Nhlapho died while trying to escape. "According to the police he only answered a few questions and then refused to answer any more. Then he tried to escape and then they shot him," she said.

Foreign journalists who saw Nhlapho's body in the mortuary said yesterday that his jaw had been smashed and his throat cut.

The one Canadian hostage, Sister Blanche Savreau, said Nhlapho hid among pilgrims outside the bus after the shooting, but she and another nun pointed him out to the police.

"They made him lie face down on the ground and handcuffed his hands behind his back," she said. Father John Khutlang, who acted as an intermediary for the eight hours before the shootout, said he saw soldiers pushing and shoving the handcuffed hijacker towards the police headquarters in Linare Road.

"There were about 12 or 15 soldiers around him



TIMBER! A schoolboy cycles under the huge oak which crashed on to the roof of the kitchen at the SACS Junior School on Thursday night. Pictures: Mike Collins

Falling oak smashes city school's kitchen

A MASSIVE oak tree which toppled onto the kitchen of the J E de Villiers House on Thursday night gave some of the 86 boarders at SACS Junior School a free weekend.

Yesterday the headmaster Mr Anthony McEwen said the 25 metre-tall oak, which had been standing on the edge of the Amenberg Field for the better part of a century, suddenly crashed down on the kitchen building at 11.45pm on Thursday.

"The strange thing is that the tree toppled at the roots in totally windless conditions." The kitchen was unoccupied at the time of the incident.



WRECKED The kitchen on which the oak fell

Crack of dawn



SA guns end bus hijack drama

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CP Correspondent

THE Lesotho bus hijack drama ended on Wednesday night when a special South African task force shot and killed three of the four hijackers. A woman hostage was also killed.

The hijacking came to its bloody conclusion when the hijackers tried to crash the bus through the gates of the British High Commission compound in Maseru.

One of the hijackers was arrested after a shootout with the South African special forces in which 11 hostages were injured.

Four of the injured are in a serious condition. One is receiving treatment in a Bloemfontein hospital. The others are being treated in the Queen Elizabeth II Hospital in Maseru.

The shooting started not more than 10 minutes after the last vehicle of the Pope's motorcade, which brought him from Johannesburg to Maseru, passed through the Maseru bridge border gate at about 7.25pm.

A spokesman for the Lesotho Police said that the casualties were apparently caused by the indiscriminate shooting of the "terrorists" when they tried to crash through the gate.

There were 71 hostages aboard the bus, including eight nuns, 10 men, 17 women and 36 children. One male hostage managed to escape early on Wednesday morning and two others were released on humanitarian grounds later in the day.

The hijacking drama started on Tuesday evening while the bus was on its way from Qacha's Nek taking pilgrims to Maseru to see Pope John Paul II.

The hijackers pretended to be bus inspectors when they stopped the bus. For the 71 passengers, it was a nightmare they will not easily forget.

On arrival in the Lesotho capital, the hijackers unsuccessfully tried to gain entrance to the British High Commission and of the commission.

The four men, believed to be members of the outlawed Lesotho Liberation Army, made several demands, one being to see the Lesotho king, Moshoeshe II, leaders of the church, the Pope and Ntsu Mokhele, the founder of the LIA.

These were refused by the Lesotho government, who called in the South Africa forces instead. —Ano

Lesotho rain turns out to be bad luck

Papal jet diverted to SA after landing attempts

By REVELATION NTUOLA

SOAKY rains, normally indicative of national prosperity in the Basotho tradition, on Wednesday turned out to be a bad omen for the kingdom.

A steady drizzle which started on Tuesday, was greeted with enthusiasm by the predominantly Catholic Basotho who interpreted it as a sign of the Pope bringing good luck to the poverty-stricken nation.

This belief, however, soon turned sour when it was announced that Pope John Paul II would not be arriving at the Mosheshoe International Airport in Maseru because of the downpour.

There was excitement and jubilation from the big crowd when the noise of a passing jet carrying the Pope and his entourage which was flying through heavy clouds passed over the airport.

Excitement mounted as the 707 Zimbabwean jet

made a second attempt to land, but was prevented by dense fog. Airport officials told the crowd that because of the bad weather the Vatican plane had been diverted to Jan Smuts Airport in Johannesburg.

Still hopeful, that the news was untrue, the large crowd, which comprised children, the aged and clergy-men, braved the rain and stood there for about an hour before gradually drifting home after it had become apparent that it would be impossible for the Pope to arrive within the next three or four hours.

Some of the pilgrims had travelled from as far as the Maluti mountains to have a glimpse of the religious leader.

King Mosheshoe II, General Masing Lekhanya and the entire Military Council were among people who had come to welcome the Pope.

However, the Pope finally left Jan Smuts by car on Wednesday afternoon and members of the military council greeted him at the border.

Vatican denies Pope is avoiding SA visit

POPE John Paul is avoiding denunciations of Pretoria on his Southern Africa tour in the hope of encouraging peace moves in the conflict-ridden region, Vatican sources said this week.

The tone for the trip was set as it began in an unusual move the Vatican issued a statement quashing a widespread assumption that the Pope omitted South Africa from his tour as a gesture against apartheid.

Vatican sources said the statement was partly prompted by a desire to avoid alienating South Africans especially whites.

On the plane bringing him to Africa and in statements since arriving on Saturday the Pope has condemned apartheid, but has taken care to avoid direct attacks on the SA government.

This approach is central to his policy. He believes a solution in South Africa must come gradually - by methods that avoid violence and confrontation - and that the eventual settlement must recognise the place of whites in the country.

The Pope's remarks about sanctions and violence and his statement that election boycotts were not good in principle have

been officially applauded in SA. "In his resolute restatement of the moral precepts derived from the Christian faith the Pope has set an example for which all South Africans may be grateful."

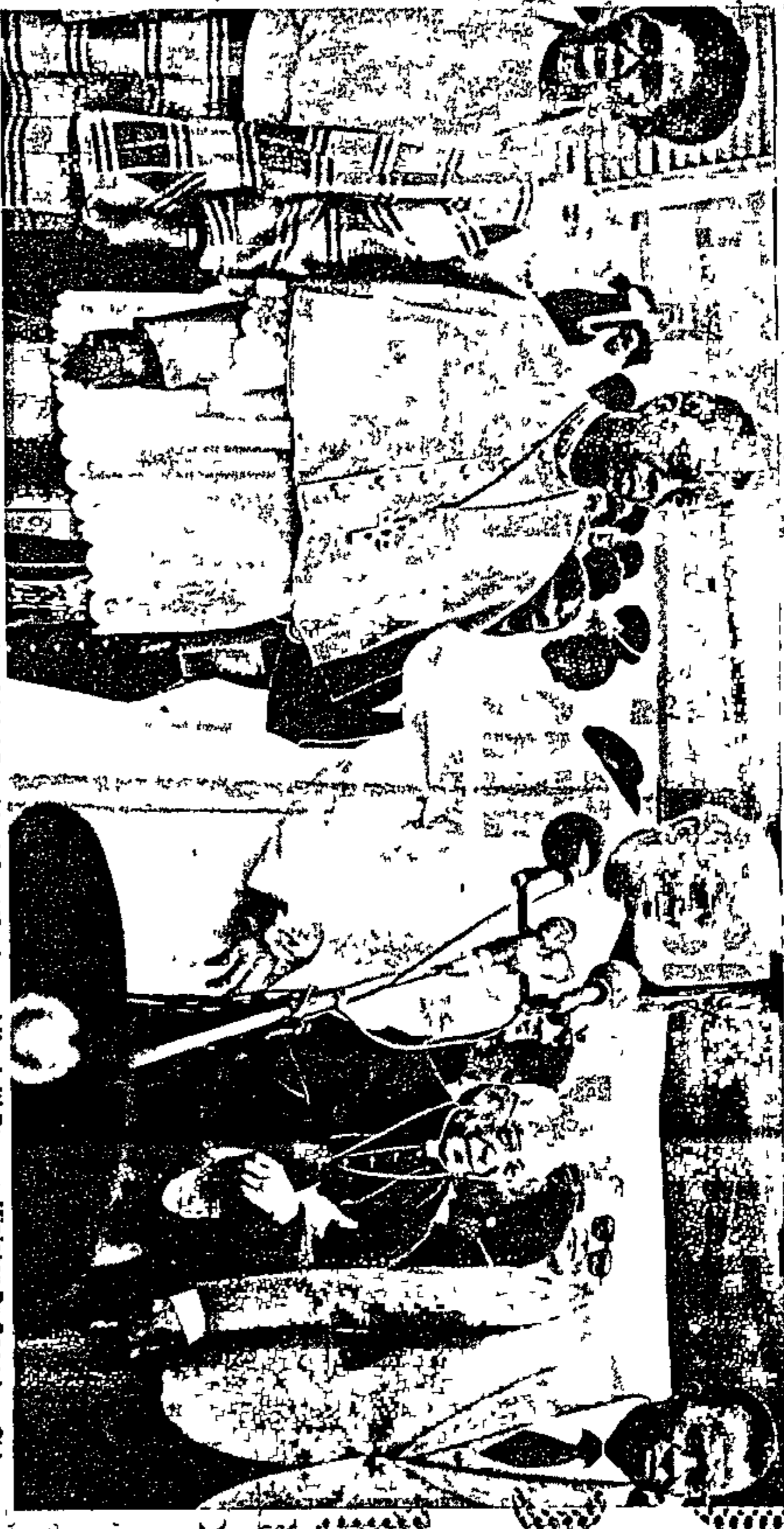
State-run radio said on Tuesday Navarro said the Pope would be back in Africa next year on a tour of Madagascar and Tanzania.

Vatican sources said Angola might be included on that tour and there is speculation that South Africa could also be brought in.

Navarro said he knew nothing of reports that there have been contacts between the Vaal and guerrillas fighting the Mozambican government who have declared a ceasefire for the Pope's trip to that country starting today.

The Catholic Church in Mozambique has in the past irritated the government by calling for negotiations with the rebels.

The Pope decided in Harare to take veteran South African cardinal Owen McCann on his plane for the rest of the tour to show his solidarity with Catholics in that country and so that he could be thoroughly briefed on the situation there.



The Pope arrives in Botswana from Zimbabwe and is greeted by (right) President Quetsmasire and (far left) Foreign Minister Dr Gasotse Chitape. Pic: ANDRIES KICHENYA

Human wave fails to break in Lesotho

ENTREPRENEURS waited in vain this week for an expected wave of South Africans to cross into Lesotho to see Pope John Paul II.

Women wrapped in wolen robes, some bearing the Pope's woken likeness watched over rows of huge black cooking pots ready to prepare meals for thousands who didn't arrive.

Because the Pope skipped South Africa the most popular country in the region, huge crowds were expected to cross into Lesotho.

Initially there were estimates that two million South Africans would come but by Tuesday these had dropped to 350 000.

Car rental agencies had more vehicles than customers. There were empty tables in restaurants and there was virtually no wait at the Maseru border post where officials had predicted a traffic jam.

In South Africa initial expectations about the papal visit had been dampened. A large-screen telecast of the Lesotho services to be shown at Johannesburg's biggest sports stadium, was cancelled because of poor ticket sales - Sapa

Pope visits SA, thanks to bad weather

POPE John Paul made an involuntary visit to South Africa this week because of the weather.

Bad weather in Lesotho made it impossible for his plane to land there and his flight from Gabrone was diverted to Jan Smuts Airport in South Africa.

For South African Foreign Minister Pk Botha hurried to Jan Smuts from Pretoria to meet the Pope and make him welcome in the VIP area of the airport while he waited for the weather to improve - Sapa

Swazi visit mapped

The official programme of Pope John Paul's visit to Swaziland today has been released.

The Pope will arrive at Matsapa Airport at 10am and will be driven by motorcade to Somhlolo Stadium at Lobamba where he will officiate at a two-hour public mass from 11.15am.

At 1.30pm he will go to Loziba Palace where he will meet King Mswati III before he returns to Matsapa for lunch.

At 4.30pm the Pope will visit the Cathedral at Manzini where he will meet congregation members and a group of handicapped people.

He leaves Matsapa at 4.30pm for Mampito. Meanwhile the Pope has sent a message praising Swaziland's policy of non-violence.

His message was brought home by Swaziland's Catholic Bishop the Right Reverend Ncamiso Ndlovu who has just returned from the Catholic Bishops' Conference in Harare.

Guerrillas hijack Lesotho pilgrims

GUERRILLAS hijacked a bus on Tuesday carrying 60 pilgrims to see Pope John Paul II and other people travelling to see Pope John Paul II was arrested in Lesotho on Wednesday.

A nun at its capital visit office Sister Ra Brassard said the bus was carrying eight nuns, seven teenage schoolgirls, six teachers and other pilgrims who had been picked up on the way to Maseru.

Sister Theres Labroque a nun leaving to arrange the Papal visit scheduled to start on Wednesday, said some of its original 60 hostages were released on Wednesday evening.

Lesotho Kato said a group of fanzans had taken over the bus carrying people travelling to see the Pope. Diplomats surrounded the bus and were ordered to be members of its disbandment Lesotho Liberation Army.

The SABC and a man claiming to be a spokesman for the LLA telephoned friends on Wednesday and demanded responsibility for the hijack.

Police have refused to comment.

About 100 armed soldiers and police set up roadblocks with armoured cars and kept spectators at least four blocks from the bus, parked on the grass outside the British mission.

Gertrude Chevasse deputy British High Commissioner said he did not know if the hostages had been given food and drink overnight.

Chevasse said the bus pulled up outside the High Commission at about 6pm on Tuesday.

Witnesses said guerrillas took over the bus on Tuesday at Maseru outside Maseru. They said police surrounded the bus but quickly moved back and let it proceed to Maseru.

Clement Sekoa an employee of a Roman Catholic newspaper, said the bus drove up to the Catholic Mazenod Book Centre at about 4.30pm with a placard in a window saying 'eight nuns, hijacked' in English and Sesotho.

Sekoa said the bus came from the direction of Maseru and returned in that direction after police spoke to the driver for about five minutes.

A spokesman for SA Foreign Minister Pk Botha said the Lesotho government had asked for security help at Maseru. They said police in on a standby basis.

Basotho unity called over visit

ON the eve of the visit of the Pope to Lesotho the chairman of the Military Council of Lesotho, Major-General Lekhanya appealed for unity among the Basotho nation.

The 67-year-old pontiff arrived in Maseru on Wednesday. In a statement broadcast over Radio Lesotho, Lekhanya appealed to the Basotho to "unite and extend the hand of friendship to the thousands of pilgrims who would be converging on Maseru."

Lesotho rain

turns out to be bad luck

Papal jet diverted to SA after landing attempts

By REVELATION NTOJILA

SOAKY rains, normally indicative of national prosperity in the Basotho tradition, on Wednesday turned out to be a bad omen for the kingdom.

A steady drizzle, which started on Tuesday, was greeted with enthusiasm by the predominantly Catholic Basotho who interpreted it as a sign of the Pope bringing good luck to the poverty-stricken nation.

This belief, however, soon turned sour when it was announced that Pope John Paul II would not be arriving at the Mosheshohe I International Airport in Maseru because of the downpour.

Vatican denies Pope is avoiding SA visit

POPE John Paul is avoiding denunciations of Pretoria on his Southern Africa tour in the hope of encouraging peace moves in the conflict-ridden region, Vatican sources said this week.

The tone for the trip was set as it began in an unusual move, the Vatican issued a statement quashing a widespread assumption that the Pope omitted South Africa from his tour as a gesture against apartheid.

Vatican sources said the statement was partly prompted by a desire to avoid alienating South Africans, especially whites. On the plane bringing him to Africa and in statements since arriving on Saturday, the Pope has condemned apartheid, but has taken care to avoid direct attacks on the SA government.

This approach is central to his policy. He believes a solution in South Africa must come gradually - by methods that avoid violence and confrontation - and that the eventual settlement must recognise the place of whites in the country. The Pope's remarks about sanctions and violence and his statement that election boycotts were not good in principle, have

made a second attempt to land, but was prevented by dense fog.

Airport officials told the crowd that because of the bad weather the Vatican plane had been diverted to Jan Smuts Airport in Johannesburg.

Still hopeful, that the news was untrue, the large crowd, which comprised children, the aged and clergymen, braved the rain and stood there for about an hour before gradually drifting home after it had become apparent that it would be impossible for the Pope to arrive within the next three or four hours.

Some of the pilgrims had travelled from as far as the Maluti mountains to have a glimpse of the religious leader.

King Mosheshohe II, General Metsing Lekhanya and the entire Military Council were among people who had come to welcome the Pope. However, the Pope finally left Jan Smuts by car on Wednesday afternoon and members of the military council greeted him at the border.

Meanwhile, by late Wednesday several people, including nuns and children, were still trapped in a hijacked bus near the British Embassy in Maseru. The bus had been hijacked in the Buthe Buthe district on Tuesday night.

The hijackers did not make any demands apart from insisting that the gates of the embassy be opened for the bus to enter. They were later attacked by South African forces.

About 100 people who were on their way to Maseru to attend the Papal celebrations were believed to be on the bus.

According to informed sources the hijackers are heavily armed. The hijacking, which received wide coverage on Radio Lesotho, added uncertainty about the political future of the tiny landlocked mountain kingdom.



The Pope arrives in Botswana from Zimbabwe and is greeted by (right) President Quett Masire and (far left) Foreign Minister Dr Gaositwe Tsepo. Pic. ANDRIES MCINERA

Human wave fails to break in Lesotho

ENTREPRENEURS waited in vain this week for an expected wave of South Africans to cross into Lesotho to see Pope John Paul II.

Women wrapped in wolen robes, some bearing the Pope's woven likeness, watched over rows of huge black cooking pots, ready to prepare meals for thousands who didn't arrive because the Pope skipped South Africa, the most populous country in the region.

Initialy, there were estimates that two million South Africans would come, but by Tuesday these had dropped to 350 000.

Car rental agencies had more vehicles than customers. There were empty tables in restaurants, and there was virtually no wait at the Maseru border post, where officials had predicted a traffic jam.

In South Africa, initial expectations about the papal visit had been dampened. A large-screen telecast of the Lesotho services, to be shown at Johannesburg's biggest sports stadium, was cancelled because of poor ticket sales - Sapa

Swazi visit mapped

THE official programme of Pope John Paul's visit to Swaziland today has been released.

The Pope will arrive at Matsapa Airport at 10am and will be driven by motorcade to Sorhloho Stadium at Lobamba where he will officiate at a two-hour public mass from 11.15am.

At 1.30pm he will go to Lozitha Palace where he will meet King Mswati III before he returns to Manzini for lunch.

At 4.30pm the Pope will visit the Cathedral at Manzini where he will meet congregation members and a group of handicapped people.

He leaves Matsapa at 4.30pm for Mamputo. Meanwhile, the Pope has sent a message praising Swaziland's policy of non-violence.

His message was brought home by Swaziland's Catholic Bishop, the Right Reverend Ncamiso Ndlovu, who has just returned from the Catholic Bishops' Conference in Harare.

Guerrillas hijack Lesotho pilgrims

GUERRILLAS hijacked a bus on Tuesday carrying 60 nuns, schoolgirls and other people travelling to see Pope John Paul II, who was arriving in Lesotho on Wednesday.

A nun at the papal visit office, Sister Rita Brassard, said the bus was carrying eight nuns, seven teenage schoolgirls, six teachers and other pilgrims who had been picked up on the way to Maseru.

Sister Therese Labrecque, a nun helping to arrange the Papal visit scheduled to start on Wednesday, said some of the original 60 hostages were released on Wednesday morning.

Lesotho Radio said a group of fanatics had taken over the bus carrying people travelling to see the Pope. Diplomats said the guerrillas were believed to be members of the dissident Lesotho Liberation Army.

The SABC said a man claiming to be a spokesman for the LLA had telephoned on Wednesday and denied responsibility for the hijacking.

Witnesses said guerrillas took over the bus on Tuesday at Maseru, outside Maseru. They said police surrounded the bus but

quickly moved back and let it proceed to Maseru. Clement Sekoati, an employee of a Roman Catholic newspaper, said the bus drove up to the Catholic Mazenod Book Centre at about 4.30pm with a placard in a window saying "ex-plosives, hijacked" in English and Sesotho.

Sekoati said the bus came from the direction of Maseru and returned in that direction after police spoke to the driver for about five minutes.

A spokesman for SA Foreign Minister Pk Botha said the Lesotho government had asked for security help and that "units have moved in on a standby basis".

Basotho unity called over visit

ON the eve of the visit of the Pope to Lesotho, the chairman of the Military Council of Lesotho, Maj-Gen Metsing Lekhanya, appealed for unity among the Basotho nation.

The 67-year-old portiff arrived in Maseru on Wednesday. In a statement broadcast over Radio Lesotho, Lekhanya appealed to the Basotho to "unite and extend the hand of friendship" to the thousands of pilgrims who would be converging on Maseru.

Behind the bus hijack: 18 years of intrigue

THE Maseru bus hijackers were members of a breakaway faction of the Lesotho Liberation Army according to members of the restricted opposition Basotho Congress Party.

BCP representative Steve Motlamelle told the *Weekly Mail* the group of four were renegade former members of the LLA, the BCP's military wing. It was absolute nonsense to suggest they were acting under LLA orders, he said.

Motlamelle claimed the "rebels" broke away from the LLA some five to six years ago and based themselves in Matatiele in Transkei. "They rebelled, so they are no longer LLA people," he said. He could not elaborate on the reasons for their disaffection.

One of the "rebel" leaders was Daniel Rakuoane, he said. Rakuoane's name is listed as one of the four hijackers killed last Wednesday when South African commandos stormed the hijacked bus.

The other three — Thabo Putsoa, Mooketsi Nhlapho, and Seoaholimo Thoaahlane Semonkong — are also alleged to have been senior commanders of the breakaway faction.

After the hijack drama, which cast a shadow over the Papal visit to Lesotho, acting government secretary Tom Thabane seemed to confirm this version of events.

The government believed the men were from an LLA faction but did not have specific details. Thabane did claim, however, that there were several LLA factions "beyond the control" of exiled BCP leader Ntsu Mokhehle.

According to the accounts of rescued hostages, the hijackers claimed they were LLA members.

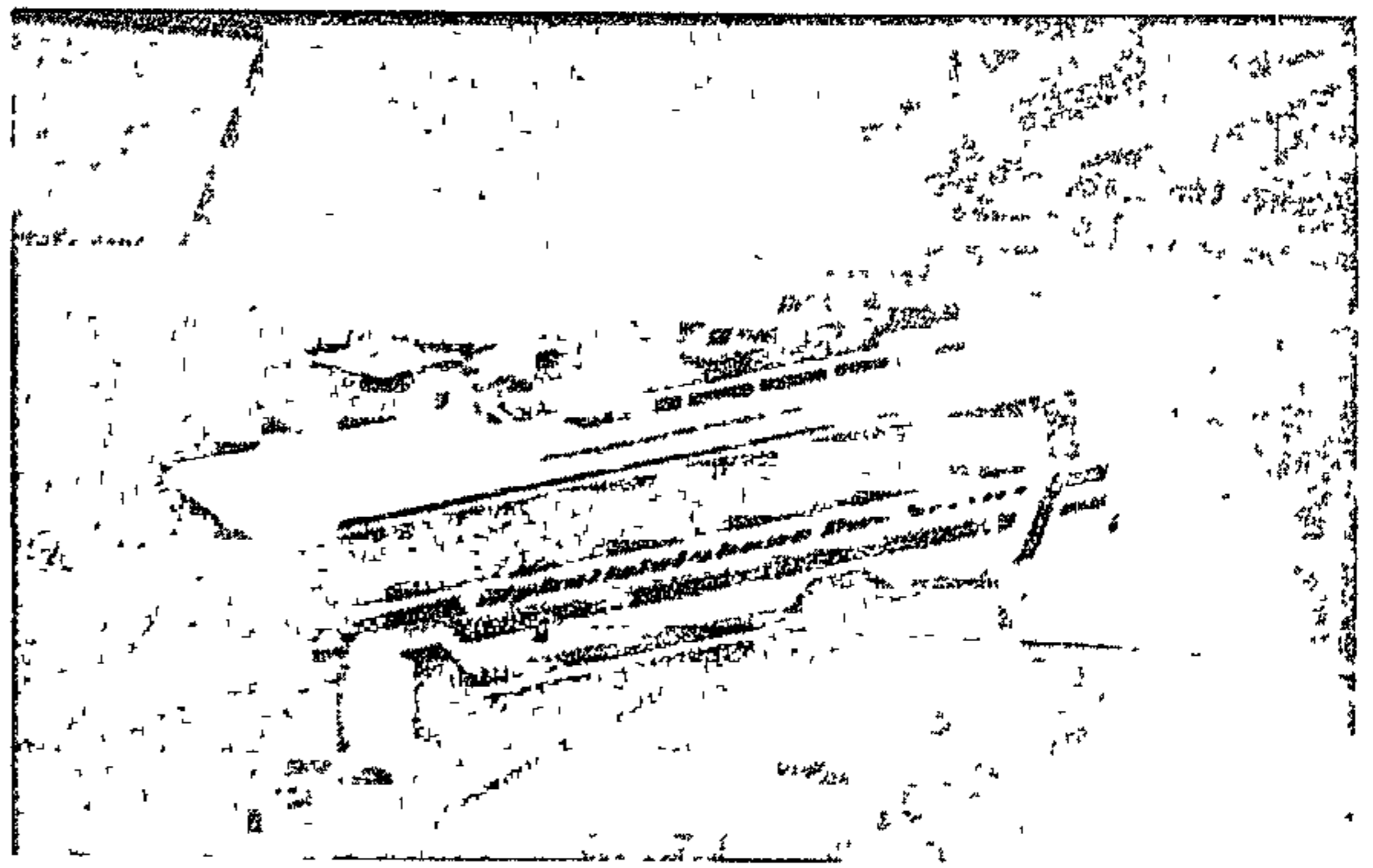
But Motlamelle, a BCP executive committee member and one of the organisers of talks between Mokhehle and the military government in May this year, dismissed the claim, insisting the hijacking was the work of the "Transkei faction".

Transkei military council chairman Major General Bantu Holomisa denied an LLA presence in his territo-

The Maseru bus hijackers were a breakaway faction of an opposition movement which has a long history of factionalism. **MZIMKULU MALUNGA** reports on Lesotho's ragged guerrilla war.



Chief Leabua Jonathan



Casting a shadow over the Papal visit the Maseru bus hijack in progress

Picture Associated Press

ry, however.

"The Transkei government does not have anything to do with the LLA — we don't have LLA bases in the Transkei," he said.

Holomisa said there were refugees from Lesotho in Transkei but said some of them had returned to Lesotho "voluntarily" after the military coup in Maseru in 1986.

"We don't tolerate black people shooting one another," he said, "we would like to live harmoniously with our neighbours."

"We have assured the Lesotho security forces that if they are aware of such elements (the LLA faction) in our country they should tell us. Our security forces would be willing to help."

The LLA is a product of the complex political history of the tiny kingdom dubbed the 'Roof of Africa'.

Lesotho is entering its 18th year under a State of Emergency.

The LLA's roots stretch as far back as 1970. In that year Chief Leabua Jonathan aborted a general election, suspended the country's independence constitution, declared a State of Emergency and imprisoned BCP leaders when it became clear his ruling Basotho National Party (BNP) was losing.

Four years later, the BCP launched a rebellion against Jonathan, but it was crushed by the Police Mobile Unit (PMU). Thousands of party members — including Mokhehle — fled into exile. Most settled in Botswana and Zambia.

The proposal for a military wing surfaced during this period. In the mid 1970s a group of young men went for military training in Libya and China under the wing of South

Africa's Pan Africanist Congress (PAC).

In 1976 five members of the executive committee — including secretary general Koenyama Chakela and vice president Tseliso Makhahle — dissociated themselves from Mokhehle's leadership. The BCP has never revealed what factors precipitated the split, but sources within the party suggest corruption and the relationship with the PAC played a part.

Despite the split, groups of armed men began to launch occasional attacks on Jonathan's supporters in the Butha-Butha district. They were allegedly based in the nearby South African 'homeland' of QwaQwa — but this was vehemently denied by both the LLA and the South African government.

The LLA suffered its first loss against government forces in July 1980 when 10 of its guerrillas were shot dead in an ambush. Hundreds of Butha-Butha villagers fled their homes for sanctuary in the Orange Free State town of Bethlehem following security force raids in search of LLA guerrillas.

The late 1970s and early 1980s saw an exodus of students — many from the National University of Lesotho — into exile.

Though the LLA regularly clashed with Lesotho security forces, most of its attacks appeared to be aimed at government supporters and officials.

In June 1981 they assassinated Member of Parliament Matjato Chakela at her home in the village of Peka. Her death was followed by an attack on the home of MP Leloko Jothone in Tsikoane. The latter escaped, but suffered serious injuries.

The LLA campaign continued in 1982, resulting in the deaths of Koenyama Chakela (who had returned from exile following an amnesty offer) and Minister of Works Jobo Rampeta. Attempts were also made on the life of Agriculture Minister Peete Peete.

Divisions within the guerrilla group surfaced when one of its members was allegedly shot dead by his colleagues. There were reports of splits within the organisation as some guerrillas disputed Mokhehle's claim to be leader of the LLA — even though they still recognised him as leader of the BCP.

In 1983 most guerrilla attacks occurred in the south east of Lesotho, and the district of Qacha's Nek was worst hit. There were frequent clashes with Lesotho security forces.

Speculation grew that the LLA "rebels" were responsible for the attacks — including the assassination of a senior police officer, and a powerful bomb blast which destroyed a petrol station during a summit of foreign ministers of the Southern African Development Coordinating Conference (SADCC) in Maseru.

Kidnappings and killings of government supporters in rural areas, particularly members of the Village Peace Corps (a village militia force formed to counter the BCP uprising in 1974), also took their toll.

Jonathan's surprise move in inviting North Korean military advisers into Lesotho in 1983 resulted in a sharp decrease in guerrilla activities, but occasional killings occurred in rural areas in 1984 and 1985.

When Jonathan was toppled in January 1986 Mokhehle said his guerrilla movement would continue fighting. He described the military takeover as a "mere transfer of illegal power".

The LLA has not put its arms down and prepares to face Jonathan's auxiliary substitutes. We call upon the Basotho not to be misled into thinking the war has ended.

Despite the defiant rhetoric, though, Lesotho experienced a two-year lull in guerrilla activities.

Last week's hijack drama reintroduced the LLA issue into national politics — but which part of the LLA nobody really knows.

23-24/1/88 W/M 16

E·I·C
The Education Information Centre
 A non profit careers centre for the black community is looking for an
Information Co-ordinator
 to:

- Manage the career information section
- Write career outlines and newspaper articles
- Counsel visitors regarding career issues

The person appointed will have the ability to write good and simple English, a strong administrative inclination and a caring interest in people.
 The ability to operate a computer will be an advantage.
 A good salary with medical aid and pension is offered. Please contact Gwynne Maine for further information at (011) 339 2476

St Barnabas College
Director of Resource Centre /Library

A vacancy exists for a well-qualified and experienced librarian to manage the school's resource centre and library. Applicants should hold a university degree and a professional qualification and should have a special interest in young people's literature. This is a senior position, and the school offers an attractive salary and service benefits. Application should be made to:
The Headmaster
St Barnabas College
P O Box 88188
Newclare
2112
 Further particulars may be obtained from Mrs Maccario at (011) 474 2055

Pretoria 'behind Lesotho dismissal'

The Star's
Africa News Service

MASERU — Pressure from the South African Government is believed to be behind the dismissal of Lesotho's Minister of Law, Constitutional and Parliamentary Affairs, Mr Khalaki Sello.

Mr Sello, who is known to be a supporter of the ANC, was dismissed on Monday

In 1963 Mr Sello was sentenced to a two-year jail term in South Africa for anti-Government activities

The surprise announcement by the Military Council gave no reasons for the dismissal

UNHAPPY

Speculation has been rife here since Mr Sello's appointment as a Cabinet Minister in 1986 that Pretoria was unhappy about his appointment because of his political background in South Africa

It is well known in Lesotho that Mr Sello has been a close confidant of the head of state, King Moshoeshoe II, and had often been called to the palace to advise on several issues of national importance

3/10/87

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SUSPENDED

1986
SOWETAN, Wednesday, August 10, 1988

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BY MZIKAVISE EDOM

CONTROVERSY over South Africa's involvement in Lesotho's internal affairs last month, led to the suspension of the kingdom's military leader, Major-General Justin Metsing Lekhanya.

It is believed General Lekhanya was later restored to his position by the South African authorities, who intervened after he appealed to them for help.

This was confirmed by a Minister in Lekhanya's Cabinet who declined to be named. General Lekhanya yesterday confirmed that there were problems within the ruling Lesotho Military Council, but said that he was not prepared to discuss the matter with the Press.

Then Lesotho's Strongman is restored to power by SA

THE story on the suspension of Lesotho military ruler, Major General Metsing Lekhanya, in yesterday's *Sowetan*, was not carried in full in all editions because of production problems.

The story is reproduced today for those of our readers who got only editions that carried part of the story or none at all. We apologise to our readers for the inconvenience they suffered.

"I have nothing to say on the allegation," his secretary quoted him as saying.

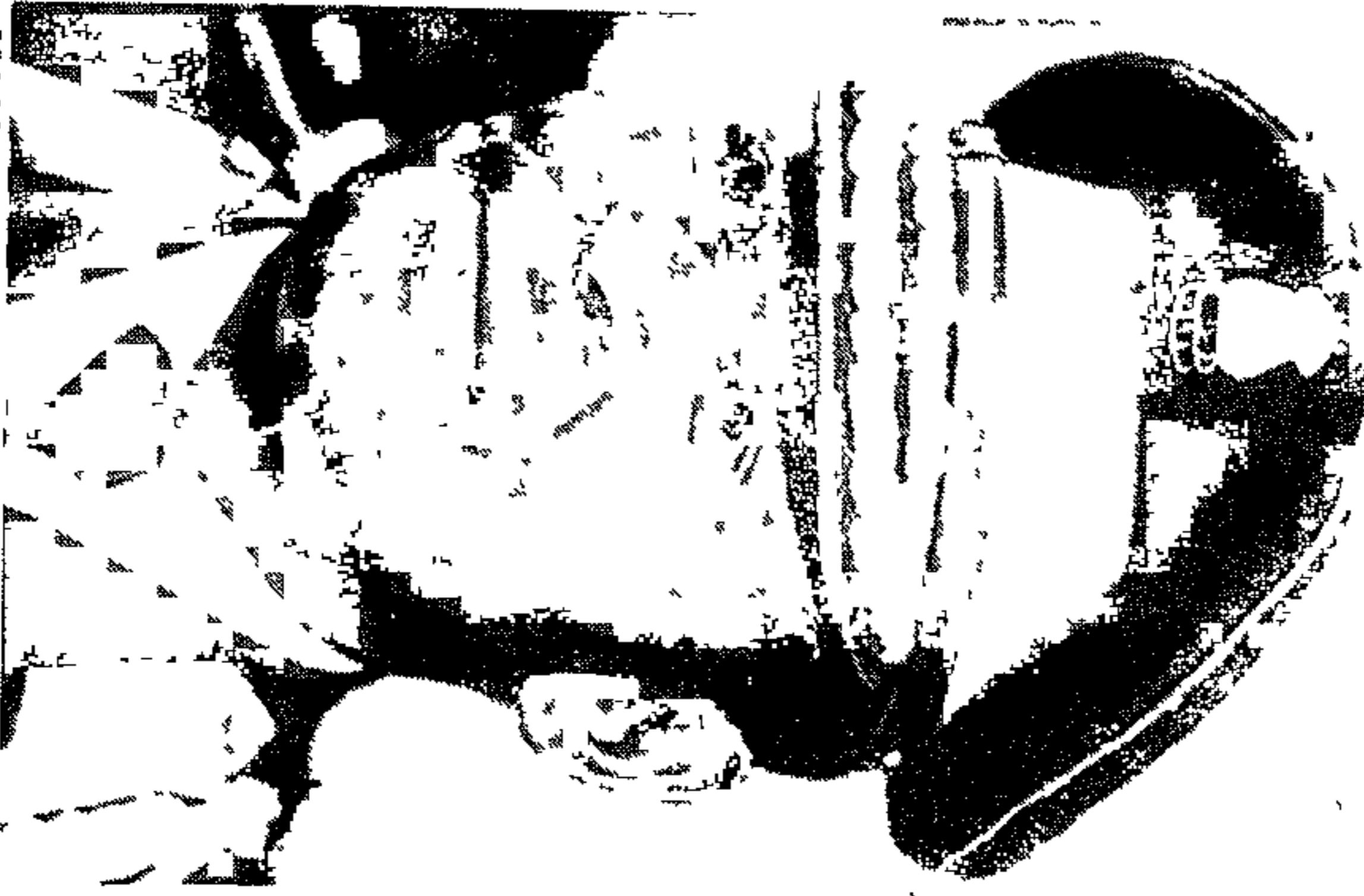
The decision to suspend General Lekhanya by members of the Military Council of which he became chairman after the overthrow of the government of the late Leabua Jonathan, was taken while the general was on leave early in July.

His suspension lasted for three weeks after which he resumed power on July 27 after the intervention of South Africa. An investigation by the *Sowetan* revealed that the majority of members of the Military Council were not happy

with Lekhanya's leadership. It is believed that his suspension was intended to be permanent, since the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Colonel Thabane Letsie, who acted as chairman while General Lekhanya was on leave had been tipped for chairmanship of the Military Council.

The *Sowetan's* sources said the reason for General Lekhanya's suspension was that he had allowed South Africa to interfere in Lesotho's affairs, mainly in the day-to-day administration of the kingdom.

The *Sowetan* was also told that the members were also not happy to have members of the South African Defence Force involved in some building projects in Lesotho, which included the putting up of a clinic a few months ago.



MAJOR-General Justin Metsing Lekhanya.

Council denies report

MASERU — The secretary of the Lesotho Village Council, Mr Tom Thabane, yesterday rejected a report in a morning Johannesburg newspaper that the chairman of the military council, Major-General Metsing Lekhanya, had been fired and restored to power by the SA Government.

In a Press interview, Mr Thabane said that the Lesotho Government had received the story "with an amount of shock and disbelief".

Meanwhile a Foreign Affairs spokesman said in Pretoria yesterday his department was unaware that Lesotho's military leader, Maj-Gen Justin Metsing Lekhanya, had been suspended for three weeks last month.

Reacting to a report to this effect in the *Sowetan* yesterday, the spokesman said the South African Government's relations with Lesotho were still on a sound footing — Sapa

CAG Times 10/8/88

SA denies backing for Lesotho leader

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Political Correspondent

SOUTH AFRICA last night effectively denied that it had reinstated Lesotho's military leader, Major-General Justin Lekhanya, after his suspension by members of the kingdom's military council

General Lekhanya was reportedly suspended following a controversy over South Africa's involvement in Lesotho's internal affairs, but then restored to his position by the SA authorities after he had appealed to them for help

However, a spokesman for the SA Department of Foreign Affairs last night said "We have no knowledge of the allegation that General Lekhanya did not for a period act as head of the government. We have no reason to comment on these allegations"

The spokesman added "Our re-

lationship with Lesotho from government to government is on a good footing"

A Johannesburg newspaper, The Sowetan, yesterday reported that a minister in the Lesotho cabinet had confirmed that General Lekhanya had been suspended. The minister told The Sowetan there were "problems within the ruling military council" but said he was not prepared to discuss the matter with the press, Sapa reported

The report also said the minister had declined to comment specifically on the suspension

The decision to suspend General Lekhanya by members of the military council was allegedly taken early in July while he was on leave. The suspension lasted three weeks and the general resumed power on July 27 after the intervention of South Africa, according to the report

The report claimed that the

suspension was intended to have been permanent with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Colonel Thaabe Letsie, tipped for the chairmanship of the council

According to unnamed sources in Maseru, the reason for General Lekhanya's suspension was that he had allowed South Africa to meddle in the day-to-day affairs of the kingdom's administration

The Sowetan also reported that Lesotho's Minister of Law, Constitutional and Parliamentary Affairs, Mr Khalaki Sello, was fired from the council on Monday last week for allegedly being sympathetic to the exiled African National Congress and the Pan Africanist Congress

The secretary of the Lesotho Village Council, Mr Tom Thabane, yesterday rejected the report and said the Lesotho government had received the story "with an amount of shock and disbelief".

Lesotho to get all M-Net

18/8/88
MASERU — When Lesotho's television service starts broadcasting on September 1, viewers will be able to see all programmes shown on M-Net in addition to local items

M-Net chairman Ton Vosloo and Lesotho's Information and Broadcasting Services Minister Vincent Malebo yesterday signed an agreement here whereby M-Net will provide the country's TV station with all its programmes.

At the same time, Malebo announced test transmissions would start yesterday.

He said local programmes would be slotted into the M-Net schedule at a predetermined time

At the moment this was being done between 5pm and 7pm.

He said transmissions would start on

(167) B/Day
an ad hoc basis and gradually fill the transmission time

The official launch would be on September 7 with an hour-long programme on Lesotho's broadcasting service

A week later, on September 14 and 15, the TV station would cover Pope John Paul's visit to the country

Special TV sets would be provided by the Lesotho government and local churches to afford all citizens the opportunity of seeing the Pope, he said

Lesotho will be served by a signal from the Naval Hill transmitter in Bloemfontein

Smaller transmitters will convey the signal to most major towns in the country

Lesotho will also receive coverage of all sporting events for which M-Net has open-time broadcasting rights — Sapa

Lesotho power link

6/10/85 67

JOHANNESBURG. — Escom is to build two power supply lines to provide the Lesotho Highlands water scheme with electricity, SABC radio news reported. The projects, to be known at the Highlands-Murabe-Tweepruit line and the Groenkop-Tugela line, will cost more than R70 million

Lesotho's bad neighbour

PROVIDENCE — an act of divine intervention — changed the course of events from the anticipated during the Pope's visit to Lesotho and offered South Africa the opportunity of coming in through the back door and having the last laugh

South Africa's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Pik Botha, was happy with the unexpected turn of events and was all smiles on television. But I am afraid that smile may be short-lived.

South Africa is sowing the seeds of civil strife in Lesotho. South Africa's domination of Lesotho's military regime is a recipe for disaster (I thought that South Africa was opposed to military regimes and one-party states. This does not seem to apply to two of its foremost allies in Africa, Malawi and Lesotho).

South Africa has gone far beyond establishing relations with Lesotho and has reduced that country to the level of one of its independent states. The bizarre events during the Papal visit were a further confirmation of South Africa's domination of Metsing Lekhanya's military regime. Lesotho now conforms to Nkrumah's description of a neo-colonialist or client state — a state which is de jure (legally) independent but de facto (by habit) dependent.

After coming to power through the assistance or rather connivance of South Africa, the military regime never placed a distance between itself and South Africa. In order not to tarnish Lesotho's image in the eyes of other African countries, South Africa should have used tact in its dealings with Lesotho.

Lesotho is a landlocked country surrounded by South Africa. As it is not endowed with mineral resources and its climate and terrain not being the best for agricultural produce it is forced to rely on South Africa for its existence. This is the leverage which South Africa exercises over Lesotho.

South Africa's involvement or interference in the affairs of Lesotho goes back to the period soon after Britain granted it (Lesotho) independence in 1966.

When the British left, South Africa stepped in. South Africa used patronage — dropping maize to the villagers —

GUEST COLUMN

Phil Mtinkulu



to have the villagers vote for Leabua Jonathan's Basotho National Party which was competing with Ntsu Mokhehle's pro-East Basotho Congress Party. Leabua's party understandably won the elections.

The next elections were held in 1970. The BCP was the favourite to win the elections. This obviously filtered to South Africa. Leabua's BNP helped by South Africa seized power when indications were that Mokhehle's party was going to win the elections.

Support

This did not go down well with the local population whose support was solidly behind the urbane Mokhehle. This had left the majority of the people very bitter. Efforts were made to topple Jonathan. These did not succeed, but the hatred for Jonathan persisted.

Jonathan was soon to forget the people who put him into power and he decided to assert his country's independence. The African National Congress and Pan Africanist Congress were well received in Lesotho and the Cubans, Russians and Chinese were soon

sitting on South Africa's doorstep. This had alarmed South Africa. Leabua had to be got rid of.

People opposed to Leabua's government who were brave enough to voice their opposition were murdered. Out of the blue, the Lesotho Liberation Army came into being and it waged a guerilla warfare against Leabua's government. This was a shadowy organisation which was rather mysterious. It was operating from somewhere in South Africa, it is said, but it could not be weeded out. Since the military regime took power it has suddenly faded from the scene.

South Africa decided to act. And when the time was most opportune, South Africa put into effect an economic squeeze and Lesotho was left choking for a few days. Leabua was then blamed for the shortage in supplies and antagonising South Africa. When South Africa released its grip, food started reaching Lesotho. There was joy all round as South Africa had saved the Basotho from starving. Leabua was the fall guy. Leabua's government fell amid controversy a few days later. His downfall led to celebrations which went on for days throughout the moun-

tainous kingdom. Major-General Metsing Lekhanya emerged as the new leader of Lesotho. The military regime had the tacit support of King Moshoeshoe II and this made it easier for it to be accepted by the people. The military regime was supposed to hold power until elections were held and power was restored to a civilian government.

Presence

Within weeks, if not days, of Leabua's fall officials of the military regime were frequenting Pretoria on a far more regular basis than South Africa's homeland leaders. South Africa made the most of these visits and these officials were regulars on SABC-TV, eclipsing even the leaders of the independent South African states.

South Africa was apparently not satisfied with the contact it had established and it went to Lesotho to establish a physical presence. She went to Lesotho to help in the building of a hospital. The SADF does not seem to have confined itself to the building site but freely roamed around Maseru. It is said the SADF is as common in Maseru as it is in Soweto, Mamelodi or Nyanga.

This is the cause of the unhappiness in Lesotho. And when the military regime decided to celebrate Republic Day most Basotho were worried if their country had not been colonised by South Africa.

South Africa plays such an important role in Lesotho that parties opposed to the military regime recently requested

Pretoria to inform Lekhanya to hold elections to have power restored to a civilian government. But with a straight face Pretoria said it did not involve itself in the internal affairs of another country. Yet not long before there were reports that South Africa had intervened when Lekhanya was suspended by his colleagues in the military regime.

Aid

South Africa is making the most of the assistance it gives to Lesotho. When villagers in remote areas were marooned during heavy snowfalls recently, South Africa was asked to help. Soon tons of food and clothes were sent to these remote areas. As usual SABC-TV was around to film this humanitarian act.

Fate again played into South Africa's hands when a bus carrying pilgrims to Lesotho for the Pope's visit was hijacked. Major-General Lekhanya telephoned Pretoria to help him deal with the four hijackers. It does not seem like Lesotho first tried to handle the matter on its own to establish who the hijackers were and what their demands were. Three hijackers were shot dead and one who was slightly injured died under mysterious circumstances some hours later.

Barefooted Basotho children clad in tatters and freezing in the snow were a regular feature on South African television.

Again South Africa emerged as the hero. And true to form it was the

● To Page 22

P.T.O.

A recipe for strife

● From Page 9

first to announce the successful ending of the hijacking

Lesotho did not have a say in the matter South Africa took all the credit. And when an embarrassed Lesotho tried to claim credit for the ending of the hijack it was all a big joke. Nobody listened as all the news about the drama was fed the world by South Africa.

Let us be clear from the onset, South Africa did not stage-manage the events which took place during the Papal visit. There were a lot of complicated factors, some natural and others man-made. The Papal visit is a case in point.

The Pope was only supposed to see South Africa from the air, but through some magic perhaps, science, nature or providence, the weather intervened and he landed in South Africa. P. K. Botha was on hand to welcome the Pope and he really hogged the limelight thereafter. Lesotho which had wanted to make the most of the Pope's visit ended up playing second fiddle to South Africa.

All the above have serious implications for Lesotho. As I said earlier on, South Africa is sowing the seeds for civil strife in that country. Already there are reports of disgruntled young men who are said to be bitter about the colonisation of their country by South Africa.

South Africa may be proud of its relations with Lesotho, but what is it doing to that country? Lesotho has been stripped naked of its dignity. It will not be able

to take its place proudly alongside other independent African states. What reception will it receive at OAU meetings? Ask Malawi which was left out of the SADCC.

It is for me puzzling that both countries are not sensitive to the damage that can be done to a country which hobnobs with South Africa. South Africa does not have to care if it tarnishes the image of another country as it is the polecat of the world. It has nothing to protect. But one would have expected it to exercise some diplomacy in its dealing with Lesotho and not act so recklessly.

South Africa seems to have a very bad memory. It has conveniently forgotten that Leabua Jonathan was disliked intensely for coming to power through the help of South Africa. Why does South Africa think this attitude will change with these rulers, a military regime *nogal*!

Lesotho king happy after meeting PW

By David Braun,
Political Correspondent

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The talks yesterday between the State President, Mr P W Botha, and King Moshoeshoe II of Lesotho are being seen as the most significant in the recent series of meetings Mr Botha has had with African leaders

The Lesotho monarch was beaming broadly when he left the Union Buildings late yesterday afternoon after his one-hour meeting with President Botha.

He later held further talks with Foreign Minister Mr P W Botha at Jan Smuts Airport

The Foreign Minister met the king after returning from opening the new South African trade offices (a pseudonym for embassy) in Maputo

The brief statement after the talks between the President and the king said the purpose of the meeting was to discuss matters of mutual concern to the two countries. Future developments in relations and co-operation between the states formed the basis of discussions

The two heads of state agreed to meet again in the future and to keep open all channels of communication

Until this courtesy visit to the State President, King Moshoeshoe had been regarded as one of South Africa's most outspoken critics

The king's about-turn in his attitude to South Africa is being seen as a sign of pragmatism on his part as well as an acceptance that if other countries in the region can co-operate with Pretoria to their advantage then so can he.

Sources said opening of the new mission in Maputo underscored Pretoria's diplomatic initiatives in this regard

● See page 4M.

Lesotho, SA
Steer 20/1/88
agree to keep
all lines open

Pretoria Bureau 167

King Moshōeshoe II of Lesotho and President Botha have agreed to keep all channels of communication open and to meet again, according to a joint statement released after an hour-long meeting at the Union Buildings in Pretoria yesterday.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss matters of mutual concern for the two neighbouring states, said the statement.

The Lesotho delegation consisted of the Foreign Minister, Colonel Thaabe Letsie, Principal Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Mr Monyane Mathibeli, deputy private secretary to the king, Mr Fine Maema, Lesotho's trade representative in South Africa, Mr Grey Qhobele

Diplomats hail PW's talks with Moshoeshoe

Political Staff *RGUS 26/10/88*

PRETORIA. — The talks between President Botha and King Moshoeshoe II of Lesotho are seen by diplomats here as the most significant in the recent series of meetings Mr Botha has had with African leaders.

The monarch was beaming broadly when he left the Union Buildings late yesterday afternoon after the one-hour meeting.

He held further talks with the Foreign Minister, Mr Pik Botha, at Jan Smuts airport after Mr Botha's return from opening new South African trade offices in Maputo.

In a brief joint statement after the talks President Botha and King Moshoeshoe said the purpose of the meeting was to discuss "matters of mutual concern" to the two countries.

CO-OPERATION

The discussion was mainly about co-operation.

The two leaders agreed to meet again and to keep open all channels of communication.

Before the visit King Moshoeshoe was regarded as one of South Africa's most outspoken critics.

He has frequently called for or supported sanctions, provided these were not likely to harm Lesotho. He has also criticised aspects of the joint Lesotho Highlands Water Project.

Diplomatic sources believe the visit was made possible by Mr Botha's talks with four other African leaders — President Joaquim Chissano of Mozambique, President Hastings Banda of Malawi, President Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire and President Felix Houphouet-Boigny of the Ivory Coast.

STABILITY

King Moshoeshoe is believed to be anxious to restore stability in his own country.

There are still wounds from the coup which replaced the government of Prime Minister Leabua Jonathan with a military council in January 1986.

The king's about-turn in his attitude to South Africa is seen as a sign of pragmatism and an acceptance that if other countries in the region can co-operate with Pretoria to their advantage then so can he.

Diplomats said today the opening of the trade mission in Maputo underscored Pretoria's diplomatic initiatives in Africa.

Operation clean-up

PW Botha meets King¹⁶⁷ Moshoeshoe in Pretoria

CPA Times 26/10/88
PRETORIA — King Moshoeshoe II of Lesotho and President P W Botha met for an hour at the Union Buildings yesterday.

According to a joint statement released after the talks, the purpose of the meeting was to discuss matters of mutual concern to the two neighbouring countries.

"The meeting took place in a cordial and constructive manner

"Future developments in relations and co-operation between the states formed the basis for the discussions," the statement said

The two heads of state agreed to meet again in the future

● King Moshoeshoe recently visited Nigeria, where he was honoured for opposing South Africa
— Sapa

he elections
ict between
old father.

our of his ex-wife's estate after fa-
ther and son entered into a contract
to dissolve the family business.

"birdie".

REPORTS Sapa Own Correspondent

Lesotho editor arrested

MASERU — Newspaper editor Johnny Maseko, 29, was arrested yesterday after he published reports which accused the Lesotho Finance Minister of improper dealings with an Italian company, his lawyers said.

They said Maseko, editor of The Mirror, an independent weekly newspaper, was taken into custody yesterday morning. Police declined to comment on the case.

Maseko was charged two weeks ago with criminal defamation for a series of articles which appeared in September concerning Finance Minister Evaristus Sekhonyana.

Maseko appeared briefly in court on Friday, but did not plead and was released on bail of R100.

Construction

The articles said Sekhonyana in 1981 authorised the transfer of millions of rand into a Swiss bank account for an Italian construction firm operating in Lesotho.

The government subsequently accused the Italian firm, Banco, of failing to complete building projects it had been paid for. Company officials fled the country and the firm was liquidated. — Sapa-AP.

18R 620

Gordon wins Man

Lesotho on (167)
upward spiral

MASERU — A World Bank industrial mission to Lesotho says a recent industrial sector survey of the country has shown "an impressive growth" in Lesotho's industrial sector over the past three years in particular.

This follows a two-week investigation by a team of senior officials of the World Bank and a consultant on Lesotho's industrial sector.

The mission found that the share of manufacturing in the country's gross domestic product had grown from almost nil to about 7 percent, an impressive average annual rate of growth of 18,5 percent — The Star's Africa News Service

5/12/8
The Star

First of Lesotho exiles return

CP Correspondent

THE first group of 20 Basotho exiles who had fled Lesotho during the past 14 years arrived in Lesotho through the Maseru border post this week.

The exiles' return follows talks between the government of Lesotho and representatives of the Basotholand Congress Party.

The exiles include 19 men and one woman and a child who left Lesotho during the events of 1970, when the then Prime Minister of Lesotho, Chief Leabua Jonathan, declared a state of emergency and nullified the elections when it became clear he was losing.

The group, which is the first batch, was welcomed by officials of the security, immigration and interior departments before proceeding to their homes. They waited at the Maseru border post and police stations where they were issued with local passports.

Shortly after the coup, the Lesotho military government announced that it had declared an amnesty for all people who fled the country to come home and participate in the economic development.

The next group will arrive on December 14, and will be followed in batches to facilitate their movements. There are about 1 000 still in exile. Those people who returned this week are from the Maseru district and the second batch from the Berea district.

Meanwhile, the chairman of the Lesotho Military Council, Major General Justice Metsing Lekhanya, speaking at a rally in Maseru, appealed to the Basotho people to welcome the exiles' return home peacefully.

copy from 12/12/68
**Editor's court
appeal fails/67**

MASERU — The Lesotho High Court on Saturday dismissed the application by the editor of the Lesotho weekly newspaper, The Mirror, Johnny Maseko, challenging the validity of his detention by the Lesotho security police.

Maseko was initially charged with criminal defamation following a series of articles in his newspaper accusing Lesotho's finance minister for having been involved in subversive activities.

— Sapa

Lesotho editor deported 167

MASERU — South African-born editor Mr Johnny Maseko, who has been in detention for 30 days after his weekly newspaper printed a series of articles on alleged government corruption, was yesterday served with a deportation order.

Mr Maseko (29), who went to Lesotho from South Africa in 1980, claims he is a Lesotho citizen because he was born while his parents were working in SA.

Mr Maseko was originally detained under the country's security legislation which provides for detention without charge

if state security is threatened

While he was in custody he was charged with criminal defamation for an article his paper, *The Mirror*, printed about alleged government corruption.

The criminal defamation charge was dropped last Friday after Mr Maseko appealed to the Supreme Court

But then Major-General Metsing Lekhanya, chairman of the six-man military council that has run Lesotho for nearly three years, personally renewed Maseko's detention order. — Sapa-AP

LESOTHO - GENERAL

1989

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ ——— ~~XXXXXX~~

LTA Construction (Lesotho) has finished building the Katse bridge, the first completed works for the R4-billion Lesotho Highlands water project

The R2,5-million, 70-metre bridge will link the access roads to the side of the Katse dam, the key structure in the first phase of the project

Constructed in rough terrain over the swiftly flowing Malibatso River, the Katse bridge has been built with concrete and steel and the deck surfaced with as-

Highlands first

phalt
S/Times
LTA says it completed the job on schedule. Equipment and materials were taken to the remote site by six-wheel-drive trucks

The company is at work on the R12-million, 465m, Malibatso bridge, which is upstream from Katse bridge, and the R1,8-million 92m Bolahla bridge, near Pitseng

Whole page including adverts

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BUSINESS TIMES

SURVEYS LESOTHO HIGHLANDS PROJECT

SUNDAY TIMES, Business Times, January 29, 1989

Prosperity in mountain water

PEACE, rain, prosperity is the motto of the people of Lesotho. Prosperity is promised by the ambitious multi-billion-rand Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP).

The motto, Khotso Pala Nala, is the basis for the new Lesotho flag and symbolises a new era of optimism.

The LHWP is a challenging scheme to transfer water from the mountains of the landlocked kingdom of Lesotho to the thirsty and rapidly growing Pretoria-Witwatersrand-Vereeniging complex and other regions.

LTA is driving a major R97-million section of an access road through some of the highest mountains in Africa. Engineers of various nationalities are preparing the site for a 170-metre-high concrete arch dam to reverse the flow of Lesotho's main river system.

Most of the water now runs into the Atlantic, and the main aim of the LHWP is to transfer some of the headwaters of the Orange River system through a series of delivery tunnels into the Vaal River catchment area. As an inter-basin transfer project it must rank among the largest ever undertaken.

The completion date for the scheme is the year 2020, but the first water is scheduled to flow under the

Caledon River in an underground pipeline in 1995.

The possibility of harnessing Lesotho's mountain streams and rivers to needy areas was recognised almost 40 years ago.

The British High Commissioner, Sir Evelyn Baring, initiated a survey of the area's water potential in 1950. Five years later a study was made of mountain streams as a source of water for the Free State.

Ninham Shand was named "father of the Oxbow scheme". The Oxbow investigation envisaged diverting the headwaters of the Malibamatso westwards to the Free State Goldfields and generating electricity from the difference in elevation. As the plans were modified, in-

creasing emphasis was given to channeling the water through tunnels and canals to the Vaal basin.

But the schemes failed to become a reality because of practical, political or economic complications.

The concept of the project is based on the fact that Lesotho has a valuable commodity in its plentiful water which can be transferred to SA.

The problem is that a tremendous amount of infrastructure is necessary to take the water from its source to its market.

The project involves the design, construction and commissioning of a sophisticated road communications network through some of the most rugged terrain in Africa.

Several large dams, hundreds of kilometres of tunnels to take the water to the Vaal River system, and a hydro-electric generating plant taking full advantage of the difference in elevation and meeting Lesotho's electricity needs currently met by Eskom.

The additional available water for the PWV area should have a marked effect on SA industry, and the project seems set to completely alter the impoverished economy of Lesotho.

Apart from the employment and money that will be generated throughout the construction phases, Lesotho will benefit from spin-offs, including tourism.

John Wells, managing director of the size of the project and the variations in ground conditions there are bound to be situations in which boring is appropriate and others where drilling and blasting will be better.

Highest problems

Overcome

THE treaty relating to the Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP) was signed on October 24 1986 and a great deal has been achieved in spite of many problems.

Theo van Robbroeck, Deputy Director-General of the Department of Water Affairs and leader of the South African delegation to the Joint Permanent Technical Commission (JPTC), says everything has been organised for the production of tender documents which will go out in earnest this year. The awards from many of them should be known by the end of December.

Before anything could begin to take shape it was necessary to establish the Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA) management structure. This included awarding several

Technical

Geotechnical contracts were among the first to be awarded. Other areas where an early start was made include upgrading work on the southern access road to Kaise Dam site and a hydro-

pointed to form the Trans-Caledon Tunnel Authority (TCTA).

The JPTC came into being on the day the treaty was signed to act as the monitoring organisation of the LHDA and the TCTA, but it was in name only. From a standing start it had to be established as a complete structure and this included finding offices, and the appointment of a secretary.

During this time the feasibility study was being reviewed and the scheme was being "re-optimised" to decide on its final form.

Geotechnical contracts were among the first to be awarded. Other areas where an early start was made include upgrading work on the southern access road to Kaise Dam site and a hydro-

ator without interruption. Initial work seemed that

time, relatively little water will be needed from Lesotho in the first year and there is no reason why it should not be delivered in 1996.

However, if there is a severe water shortage in SA at that time, it will be possible to deliver water through unlined tunnels as an emergency measure.

Pond

In terms of optimism, changes have been made to project plans since the publication of the original feasibility study. One is that the headpond to regulate water into the hydro-power station has been eliminated, making it probably the only such plant in the world with such long waterways where water will be fed directly into the generator without interruption.

Initial work seemed that

tions for the Kaise storage dam sites should be developed and that the wall should be a concrete arch construction.

Mr Van Robbroeck says a major technical variation is that the valve system, which was to have been at the outlet of the Ash River at the end of the delivery tunnel, has been eliminated. This will lower the maximum pressures to which the tunnel will be subjected and reduce the amount of steel lining required. It also reduces the reinforcing of the tunnel lining in areas of low cover.

Challenges

He thinks one of the major challenges of the project will be raising money on acceptable terms. Another will be to continue the satisfactory

made possible by the project.

For example, certain roads in Lesotho have to be upgraded but will not be used exclusively by vehicles working on the LHWP. They will be used by project and normal Lesotho traffic, so a reasonable formula for a division of costs must be worked out.

In addition, the LHDA plays a broader role than society as a project developer for the scheme. It is also there as a catalyst for opening up the Highlands region to secondary development.

Mr Wells believes certain sections will be tunnel bored. "Once the contracts have been awarded there will be a scramble among contractors wishing to tunnel bore to find machines.

"If they go into the world

THE varying forms and hardness of the rock in Lesotho demand a good deal of preparation and planning to choose the best tunneling methods for the water scheme.

There are two basic ways of tunneling — drilling and blasting and tunnel boring. It seems certain that both will be used on the scheme.

Although contracts will not be awarded until the end of the year, consultants and contractors are gathering information.

A supplier of tunnel-boring equipment, The Robbins Company (Africa), is giving advice. Managing director John Wells says that because of the size of the project and the variations in ground conditions there are bound to be situations in which boring is appropriate and others where drilling and blasting will be better.

Tests

"The consultants will advise on the best method. Pre-qualification documents show that contractors will be allowed to decide whether to drill and blast or use boring machines.

"We run a host of tests. Decisions depend on such things as the length of the tunnel, the accessibility and the hardness of the rock.

"The consultants to the Lesotho Highlands Development Authority give us all the data relating to size and length of tunnel, type of ground and so on. We give them the information of the type of advance rate — how many metres a day it is going to progress, and what we expect their costs to be.

"Then they go to someone else and talk about drilling and blasting and compare the two. The consultants make up their minds on which is the best way to go."

Mr Wells believes certain sections will be tunnel bored. "Once the contracts have been awarded there will be a scramble among contractors wishing to tunnel bore to find machines.

"If they go into the world

Contractors face vital decisions



A hard-rock tunnel-boring machine at work

market they will get second-hand equipment that may not be ideal for the job, but will probably be adequate in some areas. There are some difficult ground areas for which it would be best for them to order new equipment.

It seems the lead time on delivery of new equipment is about a year. The machines are purpose built for tunneling through different types of rock. Modifications are important when dealing with hard basalt, of which there are large stretches in Lesotho.

"Tunnel boring would probably start with existing machines, if they can be found, in about July 1990. If equipment has to be ordered a more realistic starting date would be early 1991."

Robbins is a subsidiary of a US-based company, an organisation with more than half of the world market in tunnel-boring machines.

"We rely on their expertise. Tunnel boring has not yet caught on in SA, so there is not as yet a lot of knowledge in our local subsidiary.

Lesotho is a major watershed in the Southern African context, and water is by far its most important natural resource. It lies within the summer rainfall area with more than 85% of precipitation occurring between October and April. The average annual rainfall varies from less than 600mm in the lowlands to more than 1 000mm in the mountains. SA has an average rainfall of 497mm.

technical assistance contracts (TACs) to boost expertise levels for the water transfer and hydro-power schemes in the LHDA, including TAC-engineering, TAC-accounting, TAC-environment and TAC-finance

Mr Van Robbroeck says TAC-finance has been awarded to Standard Charter Merchant Bank

Review

"They are technical assistants, financial advisers to the LHDA entrusted with the task of advising how to go about raising the finance for the part of the project constructed on Lesotho soil and the water transfer portion, but not the hydro-power project"

He says the LHDA has also awarded design contracts for sections of the first phase of the development including Katse Dam and the transfer tunnel, the hydro-power project, the access roads and the Katse advance infrastructure

On the SA side, several consultants and a small staff complement have been ap-

area The study is to quantify the area's water resources and the results will form the basis on which the royalty agreement between SA and Lesotho is based

Delay

Mr Van Robbroeck is not too concerned about a delay between the completion of the feasibility study and the signing of the treaty

"The reason for the delay was in part because of an unrealistic assumption of how long the negotiations would last Every treaty of this nature is unique

"We have taken account of the delay and it has now become part of the planning procedure

"We have agreed that the important deadline is when the storage of water begins, so we must ensure that Katse Dam closes its gates on time The actual delivery of water to SA is less time-critical"

The initial quantities of water needed from the LHWP will not be particularly large Unless there is a severe water shortage at that

this would not be possible, but SA engineers established that the problems could be overcome Their conclusions have been confirmed by the international hydropower design consultants

Another recommendation from the optimisation study is that the upper of two loca-

management and design-making process by the two authorities (TCTA and LHDA) monitored and approved by the JPTA without having to go to arbitration

It is almost certain there will be issues of conflict

"The treaty has tried to anticipate them, but on a com-

High-quality water from Highlands

THE quantity of water available in a given area is by no means the only issue considered by planners

The quality of the water has to be considered and computer models are playing an increasing part in such as-

essments

The methods have helped to demonstrate that the water from the Lesotho Highlands is of an exceptionally high standard

Water quality is highlighted in a paper produced by Chris Herold of consulting engineers Stewart, Sviridov & Oliver, and Theo van Robbroeck, Deputy Director-General of the Department of Water Affairs

It seems that the Lesotho scheme's nearest rival, the Orange-Vaal Weirs Scheme, was rejected because of the economic disadvantages associated with high salt concentrations in the water

A total of 37 weirs was proposed to reverse the flow of the Vaal River to deliver Orange River water to the Pretoria-Witwatersrand-Vereniging area The water would have been contaminated by all the salts flushed from the region and which are carried by the Vaal to Orange and then the Atlantic Ocean The removal of the salts would have cost taxpayers billions of rands

Strategic

The corporation is promoting the establishment of satellite industries for the construction of the LHWP, and provision of strategic services to contractors

Monyake believes that not only will start-up industries benefit For example, there is a steel-cutting and bending establishment which, helped by the LNDC, is upgrading its facilities to meet LHWP reinforcing requirements

The LNDC has also been exploring the feasibility of extending the rail siding at Ficksburg into Mampotso to facilitate easier access to raw materials and consumables

Tourism

Mr Monyake says agricultural projects, which are possible spin-offs from the LHWP, include the development of piggeries, poultry farms and greenhouses to supply produce to the contractors

He says tourism will be opened up as the Maluti Mountains become more accessible

There will be increasing opportunities for industrial catering services heavy plant and equipment workshop facilities, provision of office and residential accommodation and expansion of shopping facilities

"The promotion of LHWP-related projects is helped by good lines of communication and co-operation between the LNDC and the LHDA," he says

Mistakes

The authors support their thesis by referring to early civilisations whose failures were related to poor irrigation practices

One of the most spectacular was the collapse of the irrigation schemes of the Mesopotamian plains in the 11th and 12 centuries Siltation, resulting in a gradual raising of canal levels, is thought to have contributed to the demise of this civilisation

But the authors say the chief factor which could be identified is salination of the soil profile — "both of these factors are related to water quality"

In future, water quality will have to be considered in every stage of resource development — from initial planning right through to the operating stage

Stewart, Sviridov & Oliver and the Hydrological Research Unit of the University of the Witwatersrand developed a set of computer models to simulate the movement of totally dissolved solids through the PWV/Vaal River system

Important

The results played an important role in the selection of Vaal River raw-water resource augmentation schemes and the shaping of policies for the management of water quality

Opportunities galore for the economy

THE opportunities presented by the development of the Lesotho Highlands Water Scheme are far reaching and the Lesotho National Development Corporation (LNDC) is determined to make the most of them


The LNDC's two main objectives are job creation and the improvement of skills It has identified several manufacturing and construction projects to ensure that the economy derives maximum benefit from the scheme

They include the processing of crushed stone for the

construction of access roads and dams a mixing plant for concrete, the production of concrete and cement products, explosives, drainage tubes, interlocking blocks and of products from hardened wire, such as gabions, wire-mesh mattresses, barbed wire and steel cables, steel door and window frames, hand tools, corrugated iron, insulation material from smelted basalt, irrigation equipment and production of overhead transmission lines and electrical equipment

LNDC managing director Moletsane Monyake says "We are working closely with the Lesotho Highland Development Authority (LHDA), a

sister parastatal responsible for the implementation of the project, to achieve the LNDC's overall mandate of establishing manufacturing industries to maximise the venture's economic benefits to Lesotho"



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BUSINESS TIMES SURVEYS LESOTHO HIGHLANDS WATER PROJECT

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Top role for consortiums

By Sarah Payne

PARTNERSHIPS between foreign and South African companies will play an important part in the Lesotho Highlands Water Project

Two years ago, LTA Construction chairman Brian Hackney said he did not believe any foreign companies could carry out contracts in Southern Africa without the help of local partners. He warned of problems ranging from the environment to the complexity of labour relations.

Murray and Roberts (M&R) Civils managing director Brian Bruce says it will be necessary for SA contractors to form consortiums with foreign contractors, partly because of finance problems.

The award of the tender for contract 104, the second section of the northern access road, is about to be made. It is thought the lowest tender came from French company Dumez.

Mr Bruce says "There have been discussions between the client and Dumez M&R was third at opening, but the tender validity period expired on 9 January and no award has been made. All contractors have been requested to extend the validity of their tenders for another month. No decision has yet been made on

contract 104
"We tendered on our own as did Dumez. However, we are partners in other ventures so there is a possibility we could get together. It cannot be an up-front contractual involvement with the client. We did not tender jointly, so only the contractors that tendered can be awarded the job. If we get it, Dumez may be willing to do some of the work for us."

"Most large South African road-building contractors can do the job, but the altitude and weather conditions there are different to those in SA. It would be useful to have a contractor in on it who is used to Alpine conditions, for instance."

Verwoerd Dam

"There is a shortage of skilled management and other workers in construction. Overseas involvement brings in resources, but they are not essential."

Dumez is one of the largest international contractors, doing a lot of work in Africa and Europe. Mr Bruce says "It has been involved in SA, having been the main contractor on the Hendrik Ver-

woerd Dam in the 1960s. But now it has the problem of most European contractors — a sensitivity about working in SA. We have to be aware of our partners' predicament because they also work in Nigeria, Libya and other countries which dislike SA."

"The job is in Lesotho, but the SA connections are real. Foreigners keep a low profile in such circumstances, but they have tendered openly as Dumez has done, and not under another name. There are two contracts for the project in SA — the delivery tunnels — and few European contractors would want to take part in them."

"It is all delicate. The project will rely heavily on the availability of offshore funds, so foreign contractors' contributions are important. They are treading a tightrope by being involved."

He thinks French contractors in particular are committed to Africa. "I think they are looking 10 years down the track to when things may be politically smoother here. Their outlook on SA is optimistic."

Peter Clogg, Group Five chief executive, believes that although the scheme presents technical challenges for designers and contrac-

tors, it is not beyond the capabilities of SA expertise.
"One option would be for SA to build the entire scheme, keeping the foreign exchange requirement to under 5%. The design and overall approach would be labour intensive. Simpler but cost-effective techniques could be used, not requiring high mechanisation or novel technical input."

"Foreign companies may be able to bring development aid finance to the scheme at reasonable rates of interest."

Mr Clogg believes that to be assured of obtaining the money it is necessary to have a reasonably high foreign content, possibly about 50%.

"It follows that this approach to the project, its entire design in fact, will favour mechanisation and sophisticated techniques offered by such a firm. If South African contractors are to participate they will need to team up with overseas companies."

He says the preliminary documents call for contractor finance, although the raising of foreign money by the authorities is a possibility.

"There is a danger that contractors will be committed to consortiums before they know the ground

rules. This suggests that the authorities have taken the view that foreign participation on a large scale is essential, and a 'sophisticated and mechanised' approach has been decided on.

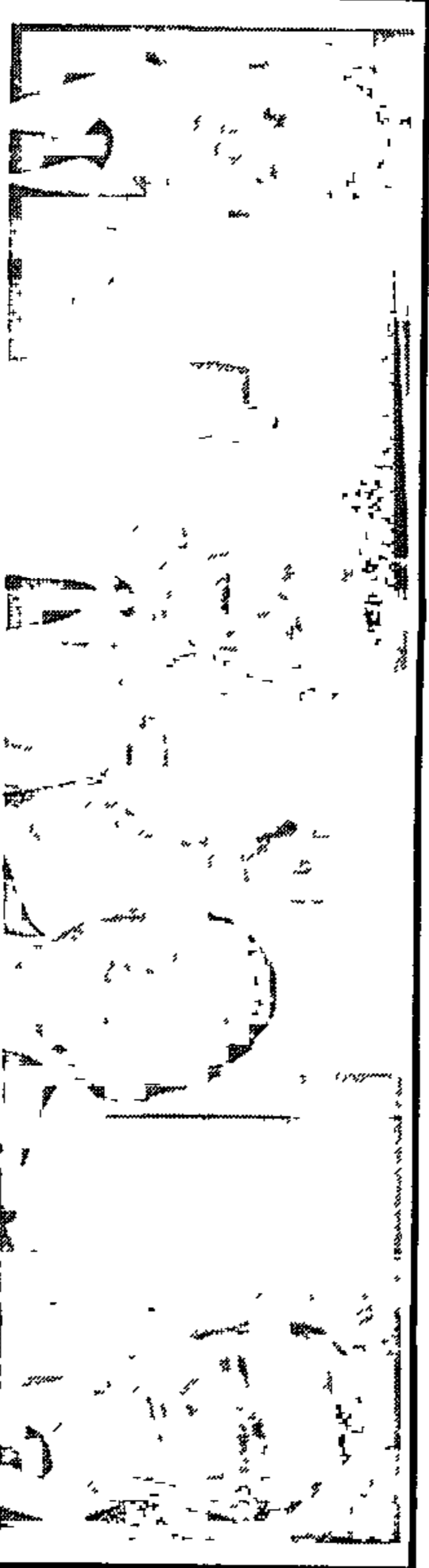
"Contractors will obviously operate within the ground rules set by the authorities."

Mr Clogg says SA should be careful not to end up with a large, expensive foreign content while having to finance perhaps two-thirds of the scheme. He warns that SA would then get the worst of both worlds.

Questions

Kees Lagaaay, executive director of the SA Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors says some of the questions surrounding the financing of the project are tied up with which consortiums show an interest in tendering for major construction jobs — the dams and tunnels.

"Financial decisions can be made only when everyone knows exactly whom they are dealing with." If a French contractor tenders, France could well provide the money. The French firm could also combine with a German contractor.



Managing directors of the four SA companies which formed Trans-Highlands Tunneling Contractors: Dicks Loubser of RUC Mining Contracting Company, Brian Herd of Grinaker Construction, Sarel Swart of Shaft Sinkers and Frank Guise-Brown of GFC Mining

Italian tunneller joins the team

A CONSORTIUM of South African contractors formed to tender for work on the LHWP has been joined by an Italian contractor with expertise in the design and operation of tunnel-boring machines.

Societa Esecuzione Lavori Idraulici (Sel), based in Rome, has experience on major tunneling contracts in Europe and other parts of the world. It is joining SA members of the consortium — GFC Mining, Grinaker Construction (TVI), Shaft Sinkers and RUC Mining Contracting

Company.
Consortium chairman Brian Herd says the intention is to concentrate efforts on the two tunnels on the SA side of the project and to offer services as a sub contractor for selected packages of work on the three Lesotho tunnels.

"We are concentrating on the two South African tunnels because we expect contractor financing to play a major role in the award of all the contracts. They are all large contracts and we do not feel comfortable about being exposed to too great an extent."

"Nevertheless, we have consider-

able expertise and resources available for contractors who bid for contracts for the Lesotho tunnels. We believe there will be a big market for us as a specialist sub-contractor on the Lesotho side, handling peripheral work like access adits, ventilation shafts and access shafts."

Mr Herd says the long Lesotho tunnels are projects for boring machines. The South African tunnels are shorter and pass through more difficult ground conditions. Although the use of tunnel-boring machines may be technically feasible on these projects, the consortium is investigating road header and conventional drill-and-blast options.

Radio, air contact provides a lifeline

A VENTURE as complex as the Lesotho Highlands Water Project requires communication facilities of the highest and most reliable standards

The remoteness of the sites and extreme weather conditions make it vital for everyone to be in touch

Radio contact is essential, and in rugged terrain planes and helicopters play an important role

Communications is a multi-million-rand project in itself, and much paperwork, planning and expertise have gone into choosing the best methods

Hurbarn Electronics is supplying the communications equipment to the Lesotho Highlands Development Authority. Director Reg Barnes says much has been done, but there is still a long way to go

Repeaters

Mr Barnes says "We started with mobile radios. The VHF system has improved radio communications. Repeaters are necessary for VHF and have been placed in the mountains on top of Letele, Kolberg and Machache. They are interlinked on UHF to give coverage to the whole of phase one."

The plan is to put in cellular radio, which is like an ordinary car radio. It is part of the upgrading so that everyone can be in touch with everyone else all the time.

"We have done a theoretical and computerised exercise for the paths and how many stations or cells will be required. The planning is done and the maps drawn. As consultants we presented this to the LHDA. The meetings are still going on and many tests have to be conducted."

"We are collecting data regarding the weather and the seismic stations that will be needed. The weather, or met stations, will measure temperature, rainfall and snowfall, etc. The seismic stations will measure any earth movement or tremors caused by the pressure of water and concrete in dams. They are able to locate the epicentre (the point on the earth's surface nearest to the centre of an earthquake) of such movements accurately."

Modem

His company is designing the equipment to gather the information to be transmit-

ted from the unmanned stations to Maseru.

"From that point on it will need a modem (a device used to interface communications equipment to a transmission line) link-up with, for example, geological surveys in Pretoria to contribute to an overall weather and seismic picture of the whole region. Radio work has become computerised and complex. Seismic information is needed before work starts on the first dam.

"Timing is important. We are building clocks which must be accurate to within a fraction of a second. Let's imagine three seismic stations. If there is earth movement, each station will receive the wave at a certain time. These waves travel at fantastic speeds through the earth and the value of the disturbance is recorded at all three stations to locate the epicentre."

The clocks will be updated three or four times a day by computer to maintain accuracy.

Aircraft

Light Aircraft are an important form of communication. They are in demand from engineers and consultants carrying out preliminary investigations.

Colin Brock, a director and pilot at Highland Air, says his company has been kept busy for weeks.

"There has been little construction as yet, although LTA has built the Katse Bridge. We fly mostly engineers and consultants to site. They carry out surveys and drill for samples.

Houses to keep out the cold

HOME comforts can be thin on the ground in regions where the snow is more than a metre deep, so the living quarters for construction workers are an important issue.

Last year the weather conditions were among the worst ever experienced in the area, and the factory-built accommodation supplied by CI Parkhomes was put to a severe test.

CI Parkhomes marketing director Dave Hodsdon says Lesotho is a proving ground, providing products with some of the toughest tests yet

"Most of our work is flying people from Maseru to site, 30 minutes there and 30 minutes back."

Some engineers come to Maseru for a long stint and others want to be in and out of the region in a day.

"When LTA was building the bridge the person in charge of its construction motored from Johannesburg, leaving home about 2am, reaching Maseru by eight when I would fly him to site. At 4pm I flew him back to Maseru and he could be back in Johannesburg by nine or ten," says Mr Brock.

Convoys

Helicopters come into their own on projects of this nature because they do not need airfields.

Personnel and equipment reach their destinations in flights lasting only minutes, avoiding road convoys which can take many hours even by four-wheel-drive vehicle.

Jeremy Labuschagne, managing director of Court Helicopters, says helicopters prove their worth in geological and general surveys to check ground structure. Photographic work also keeps them busy.

"In the second phase of the project helicopters will be used to transport construction materials and this will involve underslung load carrying," says Mr Labuschagne.

There will inevitably be casualties during work on the project. A search-rescue role is familiar for Court. It has carried out many rescue missions under atrocious weather conditions, often in mountainous regions.

encountered. "Our units came through with flying colours, even after having been covered with snow."

Mr Hodsdon says contracts worth more than R2,5-million have been completed. The initial order of R1,1-million was placed by the Lesotho Highlands Development Authority for the teams building the pilot road for the southern access route to Katse Dam site.

CI Parkhomes is tendering for the supply of accommodation for use by the contractors for the southern access road and Katse Village.

Sats on the ball for material supply

ALL manner, size and bulk of materials and equipment have to be carried to sites of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project.

South African Transport Services is able to carry materials by rail or road from SA to the various stations bordering on Lesotho. Construction sites in Lesotho will be reached by road.

Johan Uys, Free State manager for Sats, says setting up of the infrastructure for the scheme is going well.

Two border posts are being developed to accommodate the transport system for the scheme.

Explosives

Mr Uys says "In the Fouriesburg area a road is being built across the Caledonspoort River. A bridge over the river is under construction by private contractors. Siding facilities to handle explosives are in use, and a road from Fouriesburg station to the town will be upgraded. If required, facilities

at the station can be expanded, at short notice."

A bridge is planned at Ficksburg. Sats is closely involved with the work, but construction will be undertaken by private contractors.

Traffic for the scheme is expected to pick up by June.

"We have completed a line at Ficksburg for the handling and transport of explosives."

Explosives have been taken for preliminary blasting work at the first dam, Katse.

Ficksburg has been chosen

as the station for handling cement for the first phase. Infrastructure is being developed for the handling of cement in bulk at industrial sites at Ficksburg.

Heavy plant, equipment and materials imported for the project can be shipped through the harbours of Cape Town, Port Elizabeth, East London, Durban and Richards Bay. Durban is the nearest port to the project area and requires the least upgrading.

Six-wheel-drive keeps the show on the road

BELLY six-wheel-drive articulated dump trucks (ADTs) are being put to good use in taxing conditions in the Lesotho Highlands.

Construction work on the water project involves the transfer of large quantities of stone from a quarry to the site of a bridge being built over the Malibamatso River by LTA Construction (Lesotho).

Gradients of 40% are not uncommon in the Highlands and the hydraulic retarder incorporated in the ADTs is said to prolong brake life in areas where downhill stretches take their toll.

Power is supplied by an inter-cooled and air-cooled Deutz engine. Rapid engine warm-up is said to reduce low-temperature-high-wear operating time to promote engine life in extreme cold.

Lesotho celebrates coup (167)

CIVIL TROOPS 20/1/86
MASERU. — Lesotho today celebrates the third anniversary of the military coup that toppled the former government of the late Chief Leabua Jonathan on January 20, 1986

BUSINESS TIMES SURVEYS LESOTHO HIGHLANDS PROJECT

Insurers braced to meet huge claims

THE Lesotho Highlands Water Project is barely off the ground, but the rugged terrain and bad weather are taking their toll

Thousands of rands have been claimed in insurance for damaged vehicles, plant and equipment. The figure could add up to many millions by the time the 30 year project is completed

It is essential to seek protection against accidents during design, construction and commissioning. Providing cover at such levels will boost Lesotho's and South Africa's insurance industries

There is speculation about whether it is up to the contractors to organise insurance, or whether there should be a principal controlled package with overall conformity

Longest

In a principal controlled package, the Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA) would select one broker with whom all insurance would be placed

Risk management consultant and insurance broker Bowring Norpet Lesotho has been in the country for 15 years. Managing director Norman Dixie is the longest-serving insurance broker in Lesotho. He was born

in Maseru and speaks Sesotho. His family has had close links with the country for 150 years

Minet Kingsway is another insurance broker with long involvement in the area. It acts as broker to the LHDA on day-to-day requirements and handles cover for the contract works on the southern access road from Thaba Tseka to Katse

Managing director John Garnham says the company was incorporated 20 years ago

"We are 51%-owned by Lesotho Bank and 49% by Minet Group in London"

Mr Dixie says risks need to be identified and measured and the optimum treatment prescribed. The work involves a study of the geology, topography and weather patterns

"Among the questions being asked are: Will the access road be exposed to landslides? Is there a risk of the coffer dams being overtopped by flash floods? What is the probability of any untoward event, what is the potential cost and can any additional safety precautions be taken to reduce the chance or extent of loss?"

Construction company LTA is using the broking services of Bowring Norpet Lesotho. LTA is responsible for contract 103 — the R97-million first part of the northern access road — and the R2,5-million Katse Bridge which was officially opened last December

Mr Dixie says "As brokers to contract 103 we would like to be involved in the new contract 104 which carries on where 103 finishes"

LTA sites are visited fortnightly in a four-wheel drive vehicle. When contracts are awarded for construction work on sites farther into the mountains, Mr Dixie pilots the company aircraft to reach them

The broker who is prepared to get out to the face of the contract and does not mind getting his hands dirty is the one who gets the work. It's no good sitting in a suit at a desk

"Assisted by brokers such as ourselves, the contractor can gain prior knowledge of complex matters like the Lesotho Insurance Act, work permits, income tax and the Workmen's Compensation Act," says Mr Dixie

Mr Garnham says the Lesotho National Insurance Company is the only registered insurer in the country

"But anyone can register. Many people say there is a monopoly and to a point it is true. It is frustrating for us as brokers as we are required to deal with the registered insurer"

The treaty between SA and Lesotho would appear in certain sections to conflict with Lesotho legislation and there are disagreements about interpretations

The treaty says there should be no restrictive practices

Mr Garnham says "If we became involved in the LHDA's larger insurance portfolio we would suggest to them that they approach the central bank, and dispensation would almost certainly be granted"

On the question of whether or not the insurance should be the responsibility of individual contractors or the principal, he says "If you get two contractors working side by side on a structure and something goes wrong, who is to blame? Whose insurer will pay? With two contractors two insurers two insurance assessors all arguing their own way there will be problems"

Blame

"We see our situation as one of advising how to put together a portfolio to take care of many years of cover"

"Many companies are setting up offices to get in on the action but they are little more than a facade because they are so seldom staffed"

"If they get a big slice of the business they will expand and move on ward, but if anything goes wrong they will withdraw"

We give totally unbiased advice. We do not have to get a premium, commission or fees out of the LHDA because we are operating successfully. Our rewards will be from gradual development in the region"

THE hydro-electric scheme will be a spin-off from the project, but it should be of great benefit to Lesotho.

The 5mW Muela hydro-power station will be built near the Nqoe River. The R266-million project, a 2,5km stretch of work in the middle of the scheme, is expected to start in late 1992

Deputy Director-General of the Department of Water Affairs Theo van Robbroeck says South African engineers have established that technical problems can be overcome. Their conclusions have been confirmed by international hydro power design consultants.

Mr Van Robbroeck says "A head pond will allow water to be stored until it is needed for peak time generating. Once through the turbines, the water will be re-regulated in the tail pond to meet delivery requirements"

Power from raging waters

By eliminating the head pond water flow through the turbines will depend on the flow rate in the transfer tunnel rather than electricity demand

"The Lesotho plant will provide more base power, but peak demand will have to be supplemented by Eskom — at present Lesotho obtains all but 9% of its electricity from SA

"The trade-off will be that the development cost of the hydro-power plant will be reduced. As far as the head pond is concerned, a study has recommended that the tail pond should be located on a different branch of the Hololo River. That in turn means the delivery tunnel will have to be slightly longer"

The energy available from fast-flowing water was re-

cognised as long ago as 85 BC when waterwheels freed women from the task of grinding corn by hand

In the days of the Roman Empire water power was used instead of horses to drive corn mills

The Domesday Book records no fewer than 5624 watermills in Britain, indicating the dependence of the medieval economy on water power. But the waterwheel, in its traditional forms was a technical dead-end. Advances in harnessing water power did not come until the development of the turbine. Much of the pioneering work was done in France in the 19th Century

Hydropower installations are now invariably used to produce electricity. This use of water power is not subject to the thermodynamically inevitable heat-engine ener-

gy losses which occur in a fossil-fuel-powered generating station

In a hydro-power station up to 90% of the potential energy is converted to electricity. Even for small-scale applications it is nearly always more efficient

The world's installed hydro-electric capacity is about 490 000 megawatts, about 22% of the full potential. These installations contribute the amount of electricity which would be obtained

R200m in loans

FINANCING of several projects costing more than R200 million has been approved by the Development Bank of Southern Africa, says external relations manager Frans van Rensburg

"These form part of a programme for advance infra-

structure related to the Highlands Water Scheme and include projects such as the northern and southern access roads, the Katse and Ficksburg bridges and urban infrastructure for residential development in Tsetsant, a suburb of Maseru

from burning 500 million tons of oil. The output of electricity has been expanding at about 4% annually in recent years, but finance can be a problem. Hydro schemes require heavy capital investments and the long construction times involved usually mean it is a decade or so before the benefits are reaped

The Lesotho hydropower project is to be financed by the European Economic Community

**Elections due
in Lesotho**

MASERU — Lesotho's military rulers have announced that the first elections since the military coup in 1986 will be held in March

An official announcement said elections for the Maseru Town Council will be held on March 23. It added that over 15 000 residents of Maseru have registered for the election.

The Maseru Town Council will consist of 15 elected councillors with the three principal chiefs of Thaba Bosiu, Matsieng and Berea as ex officio members.

Sowetan African News.

File 7/11/89 92/89 (167)
Exiled opponent home

MASERU — The leader of Lesotho's main opposition, the Basutoland Congress Party, Mr Ntsu Mokhehle, arrived here yesterday after 15 years in exile.

It's ludicrous, says hotelier Florio

Ditched by Lesotho as a 'security risk'

By Norman Chandler,
The Star's Africa
News Service

MASERU — The Lesotho government has expelled the country's most prominent businessman, Mr Guisepe Florio, claiming him to be "a security risk"

And while sequestration proceedings, launched independently against him by three businessmen, are still being heard in the High Court, the government has approached South African hotel chains to take over Mr Florio's hotels

This has happened despite Mr Florio's having placed his hotels under voluntary judicial management

Mr Florio is challenging in the High Court his expulsion from Lesotho

Lesotho claims Mr Florio's presence in the country was "a security risk" and says that to give reasons for his deportation would not be in the public interest. The reasons would be "injurious to relations with other countries" — which are not named

Mr Florio says in papers placed before the High Court that he is "completely in the dark as to why this decision has been taken". He

also says that he believes there could be "some ulterior motive by some person or persons seeking to gain control of my businesses"

He says the government may have been "deceived and may have acted upon false, incorrect or distorted information"

Mr Florio's businesses include the high-rise Victoria Hotel in Maseru, a caravan park, quarrying companies, bottle stores, restaurants, office complexes, a diamond cutting operation and other businesses

He employs more than 500 people and his total investment in Lesotho is said to be more than R9 million

Offer to two groups

It was confirmed yesterday that Lesotho had asked Protea Hotels and Sun International Hotel Corporation to investigate management contracts for the Victoria Hotel in particular

The two hotel chains declined to comment on the matter

Known in Lesotho as "Pino", Mr Florio is living in South Africa while the High Court in Maseru is hearing the appeal against his deportation as well as hearing the sequestration case

Mr Florio, who is married with

four children, was told on September 12 last year of his deportation in a letter from the Immigration and Passport Services division of the Department of the Interior. It said he had to leave Lesotho by October 2

He has held permanent resident status from April 15 1980 but has lived in Lesotho since 1974

The Minister of the Interior, Chieftainship Affairs and Rural Development, Chief Mathealira Seeiso, said in an affidavit supporting the deportation decision that he had been "reliably informed that the applicant (Mr Florio) has flouted the laws of this country by engaging in mining activities without being duly authorized"

The chairman of the country's ruling military council, Major-General Metsing Lekhanya, has personally signed an affidavit stating the government's view

Mr Florio, in his High Court denial of the allegations, described the allegations as ludicrous

He also denied that quarrying operations carried out by his company were unlawful or that he had been told that the operations were illegal

Three Maseru businessmen claim that he has debts of R360 000



VISTA UNIVERSITY students relaxing outside the new campus along the Old Potchefstroom Road. Monday was the first day for the university academic year and students graced the premises for the first time. Pic: NKOSEMNTU JWAMBI

BCP's Mokhehle back in Maseru

MASERU — The leader of Lesotho's main opposition, the Basutoland Congress Party, and commander of the military wing of the party, the Lesotho Liberation Army (LLA), Mr Ntsu

Mokhehle, arrived in Maseru yesterday after 15 years in exile. Mr Mokhehle has lived in exile in QwaQwa where he launched a campaign of violence against the government

of the late Prime Minister, Chief Leabua Jonathan, in 1974. After the coup that toppled Chief Jonathan in January 1986, the military rulers of Lesotho offered the LLA pardon

for their past political activities and invited them to return home. Only a trickle of Congress Party supporters returned home after the LLA guerilla war was called off. — Sapa.

19/2/89
Sowetan

THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE

(167) CRW 12/2/81

HE'S HOME



Ntsu Mokhehle might become head of state in a return to civilian rule

Mokhehle's return will put the cat among the pigeons

REVELATION NTOULA reports on a martyr's return to his homeland

NTSU Mokhehle's dramatic return to Lesotho this week is bound to have a profound effect on the people of the trouble-torn mountain kingdom.

The fact that even after a 15-year absence, Mokhehle, now 71, is still widely regarded as Lesotho's liberator and father of the kingdom's national politics makes it hard not to regard him as a possible next head of state.

His image as a martyr after 15 years in self exile can be seen as the crown to his political career which stretches from the period when Lesotho was a British protectorate, to independence in 1966, his arrest and exile.

Mokhehle, affectionately called "Ra-hlooho" by the Basotho, entered politics at an early age after completing his B Sc degree, followed by an M Sc, at Fort Hare University. He had a brief teaching spell before returning to his homeland to form the Basutoland Congress Party.

The BCP negotiated Lesotho's independence with Britain. He was then the obvious choice for the leadership of the new state.

Remote factors however, changed the course of events as Basotho prepared for elections in 1965. His close ties with Pan Africanist fanatics like Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana and his unhidden support for the philosophy of Pan Africanism, his hatred of apartheid and his socialist inclinations ensured that he became a "bad fellow" in the eyes of the South African government. He was certainly not the kind of man Pretoria would want as a neighbour.

In addition, he had made no bones about his dislike for the chieftainship system - which antagonised the chiefs - and aroused the wrath of the Catholic Church by promising to curb its political involvement once in power.

Somebody more acceptable would have to be found. Pretoria must have thought. And the then-unknown Chief Leabua Jonathan seemed to fit the bill.

The Catholic hierarchy encouraged its adherents to throw their weight behind Jonathan, who was a staunch Catholic himself. He had become leader of the newly formed Basutoland National Party, whose policies seemed to augur well for Pretoria.

However, Mokhehle still enjoyed overwhelming support, which was demonstrated at the polls.

When it became apparent the BCP had won the elections by a wide margin, Jonathan seized power by suspending the constitution, declaring the elections null and void due to what he termed "large scale BCP violence" during polling. He declared a state of emergency.

Mokhehle and his lieutenants were arrested and detained for long periods without being charged. And this was followed by a reign of terror by Jonathan's private army known as "Kotoko".

When Mokhehle was subsequently released he went into exile in Zambia, Botswana and Tanzania.

He refused to accept amnesty offers by Jonathan and preferred to wage a guerrilla war through the Lesotho Liberation Army.

Meanwhile, opposition to Jonathan was mounting. Subjecting King Moshoeshoe II to a set of rules which made him a mere figurehead and the king's forced exile to Europe, had a damaging effect.

He aggravated matters by allowing some Eastern bloc nations to open embassies in Maseru.

Pretoria did not mince its words at expressing its displeasure. Furthermore, Jonathan's refusal to expel ANC members or to hand them over changed Pretoria's attitude to its former blue-eyed boy.

The joy following the 1986 military coup led by General Metsing Lekhanya bore testimony to the belief that Jonathan was not a popular leader.

Political life in Lesotho has not changed much since Lekhanya and his military council took over. The ruling council does not seem to enjoy popular support and there have been rumours of aborted coups. King Moshoeshoe is reported to be unhappy that Lesotho is under military rule. As a member of the council he is understood to be under considerable pressure to resign.

Clearly, Pretoria does not wish to have a neighbour in anarchy.

Although Mokhehle would not necessarily answer Pretoria's requirements for a stable Lesotho, it certainly needs a man of his calibre and political perception. It is unthinkable that the veteran politician could have been allowed to return without South Africa's knowledge.

He seems to be the only man who has the ability to weld the Basotho nation together and to bring an end to the kingdom's turbulent 23-year post independence era.

His return therefore, could lead to a return to civilian rule.

MK men still refuse to be tried by court

By MARTIN NTSOELENGOE

THREE members of the security police denied in the Delmas Circuit Court this week that they had tortured or assaulted four self-confessed Umkhonto we Sizwe cadres accused of treason.

Warrant Officer Marthinus Ras, based in Pretoria, said he saw that the left eye of one of the accused eye was red, but denied he had assaulted him.

Sgt Johan Willemsse also denied assaulting the four men - who are accused of, among other charges, treason, terror and murder - but admitted to interrogating one of them for three hours. He said three of the accused had given him wrong names.

The four are Jabu Obed Masina, 30, Ting Ting Masango, 30, Neo Potsane, 28, and Joseph Makhura 27. Three of the accused are from Soweto.

Makhura is from Mamelodi.

Since the trial began, the four have refused to take part in the proceedings, saying they are members of the military wing of the ANC and should therefore not be tried in a civilian court.

Masina told Judge M C de Klerk that they were at war with the South African government, which was why they could not stand trial in a civilian court.

They face three counts of murder, 13 of attempted murder and charges of treason, terrorism and unlawful possession of firearms and ammunition.

The court heard how Orphan "Hlubi" Chapi, a feared Soweto policeman, was allegedly ambushed near his house in Rockville by Masina who shot and killed him.

It took five State witnesses about 45 minutes to give evidence. The case is proceeding.

Under way

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overthrow or endan-
authority between
1987

are four alternatives
in charge of treason
being office bearers
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of an unlawful or-
n, or defending or en-
the objectives of an
organisation

Malan airport

It is also alleged that Schreiner stole a car and bought six gas cylinders to make the car bomb which exploded in the parking area of Castle Court in Tennant Street on July 20.

The State also alleges that Yengeni and others were responsible for the blasts at the Athlone Magistrate's Court, petrol stations in Maitland and

Kerzner quits top companies

SOL Kerzner has announced that he has resigned as a director of Safren, Kersa and Sun International.

A statement from Safren said that the boards have accepted his resignation "realising that he has come to this decision in the best interests of the companies concerned".

Safren said "For their part the board's decision of support was based on the significant contribution

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Meanwhile, opposition to Jonathan was mounting. Subjecting King Moshoeshoe II to a set of rules which made him a mere figurehead, and the king's forced exile to Europe, had a damaging effect.

He aggravated matters by allowing some Eastern bloc nations to open embassies in Maseru.

Pretoria did not mince its words at expressing its displeasure. Furthermore, Jonathan's refusal to expel ANC members or to hand them over changed Pretoria's attitude to its former blue-eyed boy.

The joy following the 1986 military coup led by General Metsing Lekhanya bore testimony to the belief that Jonathan was not a popular leader.

Political life in Lesotho has not changed much since Lekhanya and his military council took over. The ruling council does not seem to enjoy popular support, and there have been rumours of aborted coups. King Moshoeshoe is reported to be unhappy that Lesotho is under military rule. As a member of the council he is understood to be under considerable pressure to resign.

Clearly, Pretoria does not wish to have a neighbour in anarchy.

Although Mokhehle would not necessarily answer Pretoria's requirements for a stable Lesotho, it certainly needs a man of his calibre and political perception. It is unthinkable that the veteran politician could have been allowed to return without South Africa's knowledge.

He seems to be the only man who has the ability to weld the Basotho nation together and to bring an end to the kingdom's turbulent 23 year post independence era.

His return therefore could lead to a return to civilian rule and open the way for a *Khotso Pula Nala* for Lesotho.

MK men still refuse to be tried by court

By MARTIN NTSOELENGOE

THREE members of the security police denied in the Delmas Circuit Court this week that they had tortured or assaulted four self-confessed Umkhonto we Sizwe cadres accused of treason.

Warrant Officer Marthinus Ras, based in Pretoria, said he saw that the left eye of one of the accused eye was red, but denied he had assaulted him.

Sgt Johan Willemse also denied assaulting the four men - who are accused of, among other charges, treason, terror and murder - but admitted to interrogating one of them for three hours. He said three of the accused had given him wrong names.

The four are Jabu Obed Masina, 30, Ting Ting Masango, 30, Neo Potsane, 28, and Joseph Makhura, 27. Three of the accused are from Soweto,

Makhura is from Mamelodi.

Since the trial began, the four have refused to take part in the proceedings, saying they are members of the military wing of the ANC and should therefore not be tried in a civilian court.

Masina told Judge M C de Klerk that they were at war with the South African government, which was why they could not stand trial in a civilian court.

They face three counts of murder, 13 of attempted murder and charges of treason, terrorism and unlawful possession of firearms and ammunition.

The court heard how Orphan "Hlubi" Chapi, a feared Soweto policeman, was allegedly ambushed near his house in Rockville by Masina who shot and killed him.

It took five State witnesses about 45 minutes to give evidence.

The case is proceeding.

Under way

actively, that they overthrow or endanger authority between 1987

are four alternatives in charge of treason, being office bearers of an unlawful organisation, taking part in the of an unlawful organisation, or defending or entering the objectives of an organisation

It is also alleged that Schreiner stole a car and bought six gas cylinders to make the car bomb which exploded in the parking area of Castle Court in Tennant Street on July 20.

The State also alleges that Yengeni and others were responsible for the blasts at the Athlone Magistrate's Court, petrol stations in Maitland and

Kerzner quits top companies

SOL Kerzner has announced that he has resigned as a director of Safren, Kersa and Sun International.

A statement from Safren said that the boards have accepted his resignation "realising that he has come to this decision in the best interests of the companies concerned".

Safren said "For their part the board's decision of support was based on the significant contribution that Kerzner made - Sapa

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Malan airport

Water scheme brings dread to 20 000 people

Star 16/2/89

(167)

MAMOHAU — Chief Isadole Pol of Mamohau is dreading the day the waters of the Kaise dam begin to rise because he says that is the day his village will begin to die.

The idyllic traditional life of his people, along with the estimated 20 000 others that make up the population of Lesotho's isolated Malibamatso Valley which will be flooded by the dam waters, may become the human price that has to be paid for implementation of the massive R45 billion Lesotho Highlands Water Scheme to supply water to the Transvaal.

The dam waters will take our lands and our forests and it seems we will get nothing in exchange, he said during an interview in a smoky, candle-lit room in the valley.

None of the 12 or so villages in the valley, built high up on mountain spurs overlooking the Malibamatso — 'dark fierce waters' in Sesotho — will be actually covered by the dam waters but many of the fields and trees that the villages depend on for food and fuel and building materials are situated on the river flood plain below, and they will lie far below the future level of the dam.

Percentage

It is not known exactly what percentage of land the villages will lose, but it will be substantial, especially given that the best lands and virtually all the trees are closest to the river.

Without these fields and trees that have sustained them for untold years it seems certain that the villages will either slowly die or at least wither as the young people move on to greener pastures.

The technical side of the Lesotho Highlands Water Scheme — of culverts and concrete and kilowatts — has been told many times. But there is inevitably a human side to such enormous projects. **KEN VERNON** of The Star's Africa News Service, recently 'revelled into the heart of Lesotho to report on and photograph this aspect.

Perhaps chief Pol overstated his case during the interview, because he admits the Lesotho government has said he and others in the valley will be compensated for their losses.

He says that officials from Maseru have come and measured the fields and noted the trees that will disappear under the water or be swallowed by roads.

But at the same time he says that he and his people have not been told what form the compensation will take or how much it will be, and are too scared to ask "in case the soldiers come and kill us".

Chief Pol says he and his fellow chiefs and elders in the valley have been meeting secretly to discuss the situation. They plan shortly to approach their word chief **Bolokoe** in Leribe to plea for them with government, but have little hope that anything can, or will, be done for them.

Far away in Maseru the public relations officer for the Lesotho Highlands Development Authority, **Mr. M. Moleleka**, partially concedes some of Chief Pol's fears, but feels that he has greatly overstated his case in order to try and maximise his compensation.

I have personally addressed meetings of over 600 people in that area to explain the ramifications of the scheme, and while I and my staff may not have reached everyone as adequately as we might wish we have gone to the people and asked them what kind of compensation they would like for what they stand to lose.

Admittedly a comprehensive compensation scheme has not yet been decided upon by government and there may be lingering concerns. These we will try to address in the future.

New houses

"But some compensation has already been paid where possible, such as new houses built for those in the way of roads or grain for fields destroyed," he says.

It is understandable that people should complain about compensation, and my staff are at present very stretched to investigate all the claims and we are aware of complaints that we have not spoken to people about claims.

In some cases, because of the complicated land tenure system, it is difficult to process claims, but we are doing our best."

The chief and other mainly elderly leaders represent a conservative faction in the valley, tied to tilling the land and opposed to the scheme and the intrusion of the 20th century that it represents, but other more youthful members of the valley community are openly in favour of the project.

Mr. Sebastian Machaha, who teaches practical health care in the valley, is representative

● To Page 2



A drilling crew at the top of White Man's Pass, above the Malibamatso Valley, take a rest after battering away at the rock. The peaks of the Maluti Mountains form a dramatic backdrop.

Lesotho valley people fear for their future

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of a younger, "progressive" faction that sees the coming of the dam and its attendant roads and other development as a "very good thing" for the valley and its people

"The project will bring development," he says, "there will be jobs in many new fields such as tourism, maintenance, fishing and so on"

For some, adapting is already proving difficult. Chief Poli says that the people complain that the construction workers scurrying over the valley drive "like madmen" in their four wheel drive vehicles, and that the Xhosa and Zulu construction workers brought into the valley chase the young women and fight with the young men

He says he wants the road they are building because the 60 km trip to the district capital of Leribe now means an easy one-day journey instead of a bone-breaking four or five days, but in the next breath says he doesn't want the new values, ideas and things the road seems to be bringing into his isolated paradise

Other members of the mountain community repeat rumours that South African hotel magnate Mr Sol Kerzner plans to open a huge ski resort in the area, or that the water will not really cover the fields, or that factories will come into the area — but there are many rumours

Communication is the crux of the problem. Chief Poli and others say they have not been told by the Maseru government what is to happen, only what to do and what not to do.

The valley chiefs have been ordered to freeze all housing and agricultural allocations, have been ordered to surrender fields to the construction of roads and crusher plants, but say they have not been told what the future holds — and they are worried their traditional ways will disappear.

Communication between the construction hierarchy and the local population is non-existent

The project manager for the construction team in the area, Mr Brian Morris, explains that if they need to destroy any houses, fields or trees to make way for construction, he telephones his head office at the other end of the road in Leribe.

His head office then telephones the Lesotho Highlands Development Authority in Maseru, who then send someone to the valley to tell the local people what to do or what not to do

Where houses have had to be destroyed they have indeed been replaced, but perhaps symbolically traditional round homes are replaced with modern square ones, though Mr Moleleki insists this is because the people themselves choose the square design with corrugated roofs in preference to other designs

At Mamohou Mission overlooking the valley, the once-tranquil mountain view has been partially obscured by a stone crusher plant. Soon it is to be moved to another site, leaving a permanent scar on the mountainside, alongside another scar at a site that proved unsuitable.

A teacher at the mission, who is in favour of the scheme, says that villagers around the mission complain that both sites have ruined fields, apart from leaving ugly scars, but no compensation has been paid or restoration done

Standing at the new crusher site amid a partially ruined mealie field, Mr Griffith Mokoko says he knows the exact yield of the field, and that is the compensation he wants from the government, "each and every year".

"But if I have a choice" he says, "I would rather have the field"

It is a choice that many would seem to echo, but that none really believe they will have

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Hard hats reflect change in traditional way of life

By Ken Vernon

WHITE MAN'S PASS — Hard hats of the kind worn by construction workers have replaced traditional Basotho hats as the in-thing for herd boys to wear in this isolated section of the Maluti Mountains

The new fashion is evident all along the 40 km length of White Man's Pass leading from Pitseng to Ha Lejone in the Malbamatso Valley where LTA Construction are pushing through a road into the mountainous heartland of Lesotho

NEW IDEAS

As the new fashion in hats shows, new ideas and values are also sure to travel along the road

When completed sometime in 1990 the all-weather tarred road, the highest in Africa, will boost tourism to the area as well as aid development of the previously remote Malbamatso Valley

The people of the area are eagerly looking forward to the time when the trip to the lowlands for supplies will change from a bone-jarring four-day trip into a leisurely morning jaunt

But there is a debit side to the ledger, too. The ages-old lifestyle of the unsophisticated, tradition-bound tribe-

people of the valley — rearing, tending and eating cattle, rearing, tending and eating maize — will be gone forever

"The real beauty of this area at the moment is that when the kids wave at you, they don't have rocks in their hands," says LTA's contract manager, Arthur Smith

While in the short term the road will bring employment and relative wealth into the valley, in the long term it is bound to bring a major disruption to their lives, but that's progress I guess

Among the educated elite of the valley, the teachers and minor government officials the prospect of development is appreciated and looked forward to. But the older people are not so sure

Roadworks have already destroyed some fields, the rising waters of the giant Katse dam will cover many more in the coming years, leaving the villages stranded on their mountain spurs without their traditional means of livelihood

"I fear that the youths will go to the towns if the fields are taken," says Chief Isdore Poh of Mamohao "If that starts to happen then the village might die"



Mr Griffith Mokoko, standing amid the remains of a mealie field bulldozed to make way for a crusher plant, points to a tribal cemetery.

P.T.O.

Now progress is blasting kingdom's mountain peace

By Ken Vernon,

The Star's Africa News Service
WHITE MAN'S PASS — The serenity that prevailed for thousands of years in this lonely Lesotho mountain pass has been shattered, probably forever

Daily, dynamite blasts shatter the silence and huge earth-eating machines gnaw along the mountainsides, building what will become the highest tarred road in Africa

The road, cutting through some of the most rugged and beautiful landscape in Lesotho, is one of the first stages in the construction of the giant Lesotho Highlands Water Scheme

It will transport the vast array of heavy machinery and supplies that will be required to build the dams and tunnels of the massive project and thereafter will carry maintenance supplies and personnel

When it is finished the road will be a tarmac highway into the heart of a part of the country previously accessible only by four-wheel-drive vehicles or Basotho ponies

Climbing to over 3 200 metres at the top of White Man's Pass in north-east Lesotho, the road has had to be blasted out of solid granite as it winds out of the picturesque Pitseng valley

At the crest of the pass the terrain changes immediately into a morass of bogs and vleis. On the other side there is a descent of terrifying steepness into the valley of the Malibatso river.

NEAR TRAGEDY

Minutes before I gingerly crawled in a four-wheel-drive vehicle down the raw earthen path torn into the mountainside by the first construction crews, a huge R600 000 Bell tip-truck had lost its brakes and careered out of control down the road until the driver managed to steer into the roadside bank, tipping the behemoth on its side

The driver, Mr Josias Sebeko, still shaken, bruised and bleeding but otherwise not badly injured, said he had been terrified that the truck might have careered over the edge, plung-

ing hundreds of metres to the valley floor below

The scenery along the road is spectacular, with gorges dropping down a thousand metres.

But at present the drive is still a motorist's nightmare. Four-wheel-drive is a necessity and travelling the 40 kilometres up one side of the pass and down the other can take up to five hours

Apart from the terrain, the elements have forced a two-month extension of the two-year contract, which has been under way for only six months

Bad weather means that a working month on the contract is calculated at only 16 working days according to LTA contract manager Arthur Smith

"In spite of the delays we hope to have a good gravel road over the mountain by mid-winter" he says, "and the tarring of the road should be finished by the stipulated time"

When it is complete the road will be the highest tarred road in Africa

SA, Lesotho project to save the Malutis

The Argus Correspondent

SOUTH AFRICA and Lesotho are combining efforts to conserve the Maluti mountains — part of the Drakensberg massif which straddles the international border.

The Maluti Mountains, central to the proposed R4 000 million Lesotho Highland Water Project, begin directly behind the Natal Drakensberg escarpment, roughly between Cathedral Peak in the north and Bushman's Nek in the south

The region with its broad, bare mountains and long thin waterfalls, contains the only Alpine terrain south of East Africa. Many of its plants are found nowhere else.

The difficulty faced by Lesotho is that the Malutis, although very fragile because of their thin soils and weather extremes, cannot be set aside as a national park in the traditional sense. The mountains contain a hardy population of stock owners who, for generations, have relied on the uplands limited grazing.

The mountain dwellers will be participants in whatever conservation programme is devised.

The initiative to save the range began five years ago when the Department of Foreign Affairs arranged a meeting between the Department of Environment Affairs and Lesotho government representatives to discuss a conservation strategy for the Drakensberg/Maluti ranges.

A pilot study of a section of the Malutis began in 1987.

In 1984 South Africa — mainly through the Natal Parks Board — had refined a strategy for the controlled development of South Africa's side of the Drakensberg, the watershed of South Africa's

three most important rivers — the Orange, Tugela and Wilge (Vaal).

Having done this South Africa offered to help Lesotho with a parallel exercise for Lesotho's side.

Both countries wish to minimise the impact on the Highland Project, which will provide the Rand with water, make Lesotho independent of electrical power and give the country new income.

Later this year there will be joint workshops to work out a common conservation management programme for the Malutis.

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Lesotho students train at Bloemfontein centre

Sowetan 17/3/87

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NINETY-FIVE selected students from Lesotho are presently undergoing training in a variety of fields at the Bloemfontein Training Centre.

Last year sixty students from Lesotho completed the first course and all are still employed in the fields for which they were trained. One has begun his own business.

The course, which lasts seven weeks, is arranged

by the Departments of Foreign Affairs and Manpower in conjunction with the Lesotho government and South Africa's trade mission in Maseru.

Woman

Training is given in welding, motor mechanics and driving. One of the 1989 students is a woman, who is being trained as a surveyor's assistant.

The courses are presented in Sotho, English and Afrikaans. Accommodation is provided in a hostel on the centre's campus.

Mr Koos Botha, head of training at the centre, has expressed the hope that other neighbouring territories will take note of the facilities at the centre. Successful projects have been conducted in co-operation with Swaziland in past.— Sapa.

Lesotho volcano

LESOTHO's six main political parties have rejected last week's municipal elections and have accused the military government of allowing the annexation of the country's mineral resources by South Africa.

In a strongly worded statement the leaders of the Basutoland Congress Party (BCP), The United Democratic Party (UDP), the Nationalist Independent Party, the Basuto Democratic Alliance, the United

In wake of municipal elections, ^{Southern 30/3/84} six parties take stand against king 167

Fatherland Front and the Communist Party of Lesotho also accused King Moshoeshoe II of declaring war on them and the people they represent by approving the municipal elections

They rejected the establishment of municipal councils in Lesotho and instead demanded

the restoration of the 1966 Lesotho Independence Constitution and the establishment of an all-party assembly to prepare for a freely elected parliament

The statement said a recent declaration by King Moshoeshoe at Thaba Bosiu on elections to village, ward and town councils amounted to "a

serious subversion of human rights"

"We have no intention of being governed by dummy councils that the King prescribes as if we are delinquent children. We reject municipal elections which we see as purely revenue-raking machines intended to bring urban centres into the ambit of taxation by an unrepresentative government accountable only to itself," the statement said

It added that the signatories they always rejected a one-party state from whatever source

Dictator

"It is inconceivable that we could ever submit to a personal rule of a dictator regardless of his or her virtues. Already the period succeeding Jonathan's rule has been the alienation of the commercial sector, the annexation through a Nkomati-type treaty of Lesotho's water resources which is equivalent to ceding the mineral rich sector of our country, serious violations of human rights and the unsolved criminal acts against citizens and the violation of our sovereignty by alien security forces making a mockery of our independence," the statement said

South Africa is presently involved in the development of the Lesotho Highland's water scheme

The first municipal elections under the new form of government introduced by the ruling military council took place in Maseru last week. No political parties were allowed to compete

Lesotho scheme secures R239m

167
Bidday 4/4/89.

THE Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA) has secured financing worth R239m for the remainder of the first phase of the R4bn Lesotho Highlands Water scheme

The amount is made up of R128m from the Development Bank of SA (DBSA), R69m from the Lesotho government and R42m from the SA government

It will cover the design and preparation of tender documents, geotechnical investigations, environmental and special studies, and advanced infrastructure and administration

A further R200m is being negotiated with the DBSA for further infrastructure, says LHDA financial manager Paul Birmingham. This includes the two northern access road contracts worth more than R100m, which have been awarded to LTA and the French firm Dumez-Afrique

Other early projects include staff campsites at Katse and Butha-Buthe, bridges and border crossing facilities at Ficksburg and Caledonspoor, and the construction of power, telephone, telex and telefax transmission lines to all sites

Additional projects in SA will be constructed by or on behalf of the Trans Caledon Tunnel Authority (TCTA), says Birmingham

Financed bids

LHDA's financial advisers for the Water Transfer (WT) component, Standard Chartered Bank, has outlined a financing strategy for the construction of the 1,6m³ Katse reservoir and three water transfer tunnels

Contractors will be invited to submit 100% financed bids for the WT component contracts in May,

BRENT MELVILLE

LHDA aims to maximise the amount of foreign finance raised on most favourable terms, sufficient at least to cover the imported costs of the project

A security mechanism will be established, by which foreign lenders (UK's Overseas Development Administration, the French government, the European Investment Bank, Usaid and the UN Development Programme) will rank *pari passu* with the World Bank

Moral obligation

LHDA CE Masupha Sole believes the projects and foreign investment will have a major impact on Lesotho, notably in improving its transportation facilities, but Lesotho Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) executive A M Majara disagrees. He points to Lesotho's limited manufacturing facilities and traditional reliance on SA as limiting the benefits

"In fact, SA has a moral obligation to promote the further development of Lesotho," he says

To this end, a 75-strong Lesotho Highlands Construction Consortium (LHCC) has been formed under the auspices of a joint LCCI/SA Foreign Trade Organisation (Safto) working group, to bid for contracts

The capabilities of the LHCC extend to demolition, excavation and plumbing, the construction of township roads, sewerage reticulation and small concrete works, says Safto's international division's assistant manager, Mymie Vos

"This would allow small SA businesses to form joint ventures with Lesotho companies, to the benefit of both countries," she says

US venture in Lesotho

MASERU — American industrialists intend establishing a ceramic industry in Lesotho, in a joint venture partnership with the Lesotho National Development Corporation — The Star's Africa News Service (167)

Lesotho looks to \$2 billion dam for an economic uplift

SAR 17/4/89
167

Raising \$1 billion in foreign loans would be enough of a headache for any developing country in today's difficult markets.

For Lesotho, so poor that it depends almost entirely on concessional aid, it is a major challenge.

Yet, the Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA) is preparing to raise credits of up to this amount as part of the finance for its ambitious development scheme under which it will eventually supply water at a rate of 70 cubic metres a second to the Vaal triangle.

Much of the money will come from the World Bank and official export credit agencies, but there will also be a large dose of commercial bank finance.

Raising it has been complicated by the involvement of South Africa as backer of the scheme and its sole foreign customer.

The scheme involves the construction of a 180 metre-high dam at Katse on the Malbarnalso river, the largest such dam built anywhere in the world for more than two decades.

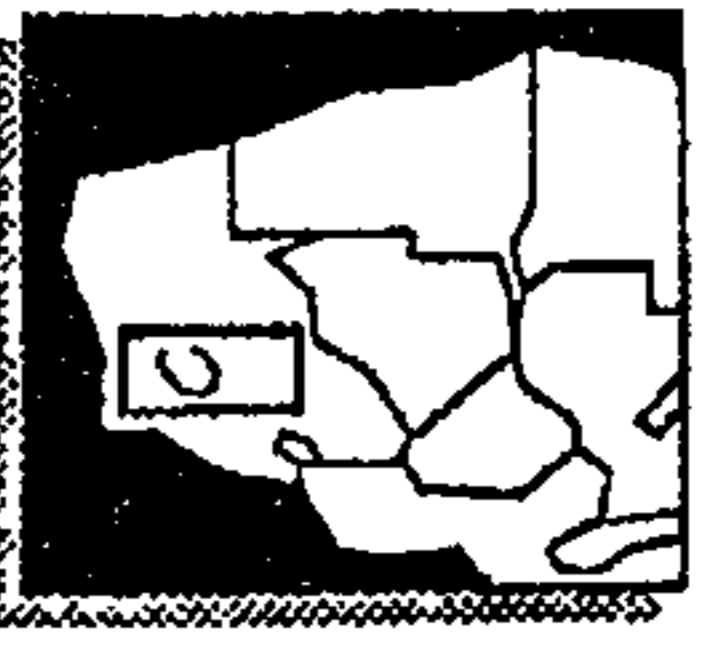
Series of tunnels

When it is completed in 1996 at an estimated cost of \$2 billion, water from the Sengu river system, which at present flows south-east out of Lesotho towards the Atlantic, will be diverted north in a series of tunnels down through the mountains into the Orange River.

The project has been under consideration for 30 years, but only now has it begun to take shape.

In the hope of a slice of the action, contractors from such far away places as Turkey and Taiwan are lining up with their SA and European competitors to register for bids by the cut-off date in May.

All have been told that financing arrangements will be crucial to the award of the work. For Standard Chartered Merchant Bank, retained by LHDA as financial advisers to the scheme, there is a particular challenge it has to persuade potential lenders to stump up long-term funds for a project whose sole customer



Orange R. CAPE PROVINCE 50 miles 80 km Land over 6000 feet

will be South Africa.

To skirt the problem, it has devised a complex financing structure under which the World Bank will rank on an equal footing with other offshore lenders.

Essentially, there will be four separate sources of funds for the project. The World Bank itself has offered \$50 million, but hopes are it will eventually lend up to \$100 million.

On present estimates, export credit agencies should put up some \$275 million, with additional funds coming from national and donors South Korea and Tai-

wan are to be asked to consider and finance.

The balance will be met with offshore commercial bank finance and loans in rands raised through SA banks with a Pretoria government guarantee.

How these two last components will be split depends on who wins the final contract.

The water supply scheme is a labour-intensive project which will carry a large amount of local costs.

Lesotho's currency, the loti, is fully backed by the rand, with which it stands on a par. Especially if most of the suppliers are South African, it would make sense for the bulk of the financing to be in rands.

Yet, LHDA is determined to raise a large portion of the local costs in offshore currencies, not least because even so-called local costs will place an indirect burden on the rand-area balance of payments. Machinery has to be bought by local suppliers and fuel has to be imported to run it.

Under a treaty signed between SA and Lesotho in 1986, South Africa has assumed responsibility for the costs, including debt-service in any currency of that part of the project relating to water transfer.

Lesotho will bear responsibility for an associated hydroelectric power scheme to be financed mostly with aid money and will end its almost total dependency on South Africa for power supplies.

For lenders, this means that the risk carries a basic South African flavour, even though it is actually the LHDA that is raising the money.

To distance the financing from both the economic and political problems connected with SA loans, a trust fund is to be established in the UK.

This fund will receive debt-service payments from South Africa and channel them on a pari passu basis to all lenders. One result will be to free lenders of any direct commercial relationship with South Africa.

The US government, normally very strict in this regard, has indicated it is

a structure that will allow the project to be considered for both Eximbank credits and aid. All creditors will be treated equally by the fund.

South Africa, which already has a treaty obligation to make debt-service payments available, will automatically fall foul of both export credit agency lenders and the World Bank if it falls into arrears.

Despite SA's debt problem, it has always serviced export credit agency debt on time. Although it is not itself a borrower from the World Bank, it is a member of that organisation and is unlikely to want to incur the opprobrium a default would bring.

The signs are that this structure has proved adequate to generate some real interest from commercial banks whose participation is vital.

Preferred banks

LHDA has been able to appoint a number of preferred banks to study the project: Banque Nationale de Paris and Banque Indosuez in France, Dresdner Bank in Germany and Hill Samuel in the UK.

Soon it will nominate a bank to advise a strong contingent of Italian bidders, although this will not be an Italian institution.

There will always be some who regard the whole scheme as a back-door way of allowing South Africa to regain access to world capital markets.

But the project's promoters say that it will bring significant benefits to Lesotho, too.

Water is one of its few resources. It will be able, for the first time, to turn it into cash in the form of a regular flow of a more than \$60 million equivalent a year in royalty payments from South Africa.

Then there is the additional economic growth such a large project will generate.

Finally, it will no longer be hostage to the whims of SA's Electricity Supply Commission for its power supplies. — Financial Times.

B / Day 18/4/89 (167)

LESOTHO WATER FIRST PHASE COSTS MAY DOUBLE

BRENT MELVILLE

THE first phase of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP) could double projected costs of R1,5bn, Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA) financial controller Paul Bermingham said yesterday.

He said last year's indications were that the first phase, incorporating the Katse Dam, 37km of delivery tunnels and the Muela Hydropower station, would conform to projections made in

the feasibility study
However, because so much of the project would arise from outside the southern Africa monetary area, the amount of finance to be raised could be "closer to R3bn" The entire LHWP cost has been projected at R4bn.

"The original cost of Phase 1A, at

1985 prices, was arrived at without providing for escalation, duties, taxes or the cost of interest during construction."

Bermingham said variables taken into account included the degree of concessionary finance, the length of the construction period and the timing of the major features.

Phase one was scheduled for completion in 1996

THE new scheme will help relieve poverty in the tiny mountain kingdom.

R AISING R1bn in foreign loans would be enough of a headache for any developing country in today's difficult markets

For the tiny African state of Lesotho, so poor that it depends entirely on concessional aid, it is a major challenge

Yet, the Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA) is preparing to raise credits of up to this amount as part of the financing for its ambitious development scheme under which it will eventually supply water at a rate of 70 cubic metres a second to the Vaal Triangle industrial area south of Johannesburg in neighbouring South Africa

Much of the money will come from the World Bank and official export credit agencies, but there will also be a large dose of commercial bank finance

Raising it has been complicated by the involvement of South Africa as backer of the scheme and its sole foreign customer

The scheme involves

Lesotho prepares to raise a billion rand for highlands project

the construction of a 180m-high dam at Katse on the Malibamatso River, the largest such dam built anywhere in the world for more than two decades

When it is completed in 1996 at a total estimated cost of some R2bn, water from the Senqu River system, which at present flows south-eastwards out of Lesotho towards the Atlantic, will be diverted north in a series of tunnels down through the mountains into South Africa's Ash River

The project has been under consideration for 30 years, but only now has it begun to take shape

Water will turn into cash

FOCUS

In the hope of a slice of the action, contractors from such far away places as Turkey and Taiwan are lining up with their South African and European competitors to register for bids by the cut-off date in May

All have been told that financing arrangements will be crucial to the award of the work

For Standard Chartered Merchant Bank, retained by LHDA as financial advisers to the scheme, there is a particular challenge it has to persuade potential leaders to stump up long-term funds for a project whose sole customer will be South Africa, a country with serious debt problems of its own and shunned for political reasons by the international financial community

To skirt the problem, it has devised a complex financing structure under which the World Bank will rank on an equal footing with other offshore lenders

Under a treaty signed between South Africa and Lesotho in 1986, South Africa has assumed responsibility for the costs, including debt-service in any currency of that part of the project relating to water transfer

Lesotho will bear responsibility for an associated hydroelectric power scheme to be financed mostly with aid money and will end its almost total dependency on South Africa for power supplies

For lenders, this means that the risk carries a basic South African flavour even

though it is actually the LHDA which is raising the money

To distance the financing from both the economic and political problems connected with South African loans, a trust fund is to be established in the UK

This fund will receive debt-service payments from South Africa and channel them on a *pari passu* basis to all lenders

One result will be to free lenders of any direct commercial relationship with South Africa

The US Government, normally very strict in this regard, has indicated it is a structure which will allow the project to be considered for both eximbank credits and aid

All creditors will also be treated equally by the fund

South Africa, which already has a treaty obligation to make debt-service payments available will automatically fall foul of both export credit agency lenders and the World Bank if it falls into arrears

In spite of its debt problem, it has always serviced export credit agency debt on time. Although it is not itself a borrower from the World Bank, it is a member of that organisation and is unlikely to want to incur the opprobrium which a default would bring

LHDA has been able to appoint a number of preferred banks to study the project

The signs are that this structure have proved adequate to generate some real interest from commercial banks whose participation is vital.

There will always be some who regard the whole scheme as a back-door way of allowing South Africa to regain access to world capital markets. But the project's promoters say that it will bring significant benefits to Lesotho, too

Water is one of its few resources. It will be able, for the first time, to turn it into cash in the form of a regular flow of more than R60m equivalent a year in royalty payments from South Africa

Finally, it will no longer be hostage to the whims of Pretoria's electricity supply commission for its power supplies — *The Financial Times* of London

Political comment in this issue by Aggrey Klaaste and Sam Mabe Sub-editing, headlines and posters by Sydney Matlhaku All of 61 Commando Road, Industria West, Johannesburg

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Mountain kingdom looks to future royalties for

THE Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP) will generate about R1.3bn in royalties over its 50-year life span for this impoverished mountain kingdom

For a country with an annual GNP of less than R2bn — half provided by Lesotho citizens (Basotho) working in SA — the project is something of a deliverance

Lesotho will convert its main natural resource — millions of tons of water that flow into SA — into cash (a steady R150m annually) and aims eventually to eliminate its reliance on Eskom power whose electricity bill runs to about R20m a year

There can be little doubt that the scheme will have an enormous impact on the development of the country's economy and the quality of life of its people

Benefits

The Lesotho Electricity Corporation (LEC) operates four independent grid systems, each connected to Eskom

By 1996 LEC plans to interconnect all these systems into a single national grid — all powered by the Muela hydropower station

Other benefits include the physical development of remote regions by access roads and other facilities, education, and the potential for irrigation, rural water supply and fisheries

Employment opportunities, and general economic development (attendant upon long-term construction and ancillary activities) as well as tourism round out the list

It is a wonderfully expensive scheme, especially for SA, which has assumed responsibility for the total costs, including debt-servicing in any currency of that part of the project relating to water transfer

LHWA's technical manager R G Witherell says borrowings will be treated as an

economic deliverance

"enclave" separate from the other borrowings of the Lesotho government, meaning that SA bears the risk and the Lesotho government's borrowing capacity is not limited by water transfer-related borrowings

LHDA financial controller Paul Birmingham says foreign financing will come from three different sources, namely export credit agencies, commercial banks and the World Bank

The SA government has provided the guarantees as Lesotho would not have been able to raise the financing itself

Further, LHDA's financial adviser for the water transfer component, Standard Chartered Merchant Bank of London, has established an offshore trust account through which all debt service payments are to be made

In addition Lesotho will be positioned to receive the World Bank's export credit category three rating

This rating accorded to LDC nations carries a 10-year repayment period at 8.3% Birmingham says this compares with a category two rate of 9.65% repayable over five years and translates into a saving of at least \$100m

SA will pay for all the work done on its side of the border through the Trans-Caledon Tunnel Authority (TCTA)

So while Lesotho citizens bask in the prospect of hydroelectrical independence, SA consumers face some dampening financial prospects

PWV consumers have already felt the pinch of inflating water bills After an already hefty 16% increase announced by the Rand Water Board in March, Environmental and Water Affairs Minister Gert Kotze announced a 2c/Kl levy effective from April 1 and an additional 4c/Kl

as of October 1 — which regional water boards have passed on to the consumer

This translates into a total increase of about 26% to consumers TCTA chief engineer Frank Kubisch says this "relatively small" increase will eventually have to be raised in tandem with the escalation in expenditure for the LHWP

Parliamentary water affairs officer Johann la Rue says the tariffs are relatively low in comparison to what consumers will be paying by 1995 because SA is locked into a minimum-volume supply contract

And costs have been increasing Birmingham says that for the first phase alone, costs can be expected to nearly double the initial estimates of R1.5bn

"The original estimate, tabulated at 1985 prices, did not take into account escalation, duties taxes, or the cost of money during construction," Birmingham says

Kubisch says engineering design work, preparation of tender documents and the exploratory surveys have already cost the Trans-Caledon tunnel authority more than R15m

The project will have other social and economic costs such as the loss of arable land

In Phase one A, the Katse reservoir will flood some 600 ha of crop land and 2 600ha of grazing land

Given the size of the country (30 355km²) and the dense settlement of its mountain area (20 000 people in the immediate area of the Katse reservoir), the loss of even this small amount of land is serious

In addition there will be land losses of a similar order during each of the later phases

Witherell argues that the areas lost are relatively small for such a massive hydrological project, pointing to the fact that the dams are all to be built in narrow steep-sided canyons

"For example, the 180m high Katse Dam will be the highest in southern Africa, but will have a maximum reservoir surface area of only 35km²"

This compares with the reservoir area of other major dams in Africa which generally range from 1 000 to 8 000km²

LHWA PRO Monyane Moleleki stresses that displaced Basotho will be given alternative income sources and, accordingly, plans are being prepared for an intensive rural development programme

He says training will be aimed particularly at the job opportunities the LHWP will create

To this end, a 75-strong Lesotho Construction Consortium (LHCC) has been formed under the auspices of a joint LCCI/SA Foreign Trade Organisation (Satto) working group, in order to bid for contracts

Interface

Satto's international division assistant manager Myrme Vos says the capabilities of the LHCC extend from demolition, excavation and plumbing, to the construction of township roads, sewerage reticulation and small concrete works

"This will provide the opportunity for small SA businesses to interface with Lesotho companies and form joint ventures benefiting both countries," she says

"A tax haven structure may be a further possibility, with, for example, opportunity for the assembly in Lesotho of electronic components, solar panels and warehousing for importation into SA," says Vos

LESOTHO HIGHLANDS PROJECT

Consortiums vie for R2bn dam contract

By Day 9/1/87 (167)

THE mountain town of Maseru swarms with unprecedented activity as financial and technical advisers to the Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA) attend to the many details associated with their task — awarding the contract for the largest dam built over the past 25 years.

About 33 consortiums consisting of 90 engineering companies, representing 21 countries ranging from South Korea to the US, are crossing their fingers in the hope of securing the contract for the Katse Dam — worth well over R2bn.

Situated on the Katse River in central Lesotho, the double-curved, concrete arch dam will be 180m high and 800m across and will utilise about 2-million cubic metres of concrete. It will require 800 000 tons of cement which will have to be imported from SA.

Excavation of almost a billion cubic metres of earth will precede construction. The dam is the single largest component of stage one of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP), and the construction contract is estimated at 40% of the total cost for the phase — set at almost R3bn.

POWER

Phase one will also incorporate a 48km tunnel through the Maluti Mountains, 33km of delivery tunnels into the Ash River and the first phase of the Muela Power Station. It also involves the construction of an underground power station, about 52m long, together with headrace and tailrace tunnels about 4km in length, surge shafts, penstocks and other associated waterways and underground works.

The contract is to be awarded next March and the entire phase is due for completion by 1996.

Because of the SA connection the financing for phase one is "more than a little tricky", says LHDA financial controller Paul Birmingham, who adds that contractors will be required to propose and outline their own financing structure in their bids. He says preference will be given to contractors offering united foreign finance

and bidders will be required to bring their own foreign exchange, thus protecting the balance of payments.

He stresses that the funding requirements will not prejudice the chances of SA contractors and says the treaty requires that no preference be given to any one country.

In any event, with the exception of Group Five, all of the SA contractors pitching for the work are linked up with foreign contractors because it is probably beyond the capability of any single international contractor to do the job alone.

Birmingham says he will be "highly surprised" if the entire contract is awarded to a contractor outside SA. Kenyan, Zimbabwean, South Korean, Chinese and Yugoslavian companies make up some of the 22 registered contractors without SA links.

The largest group incorporating an SA concern comprises Murray & Roberts (M & R) in association with seven companies from France, West Germany, Belgium, Italy, Austria and the UK.

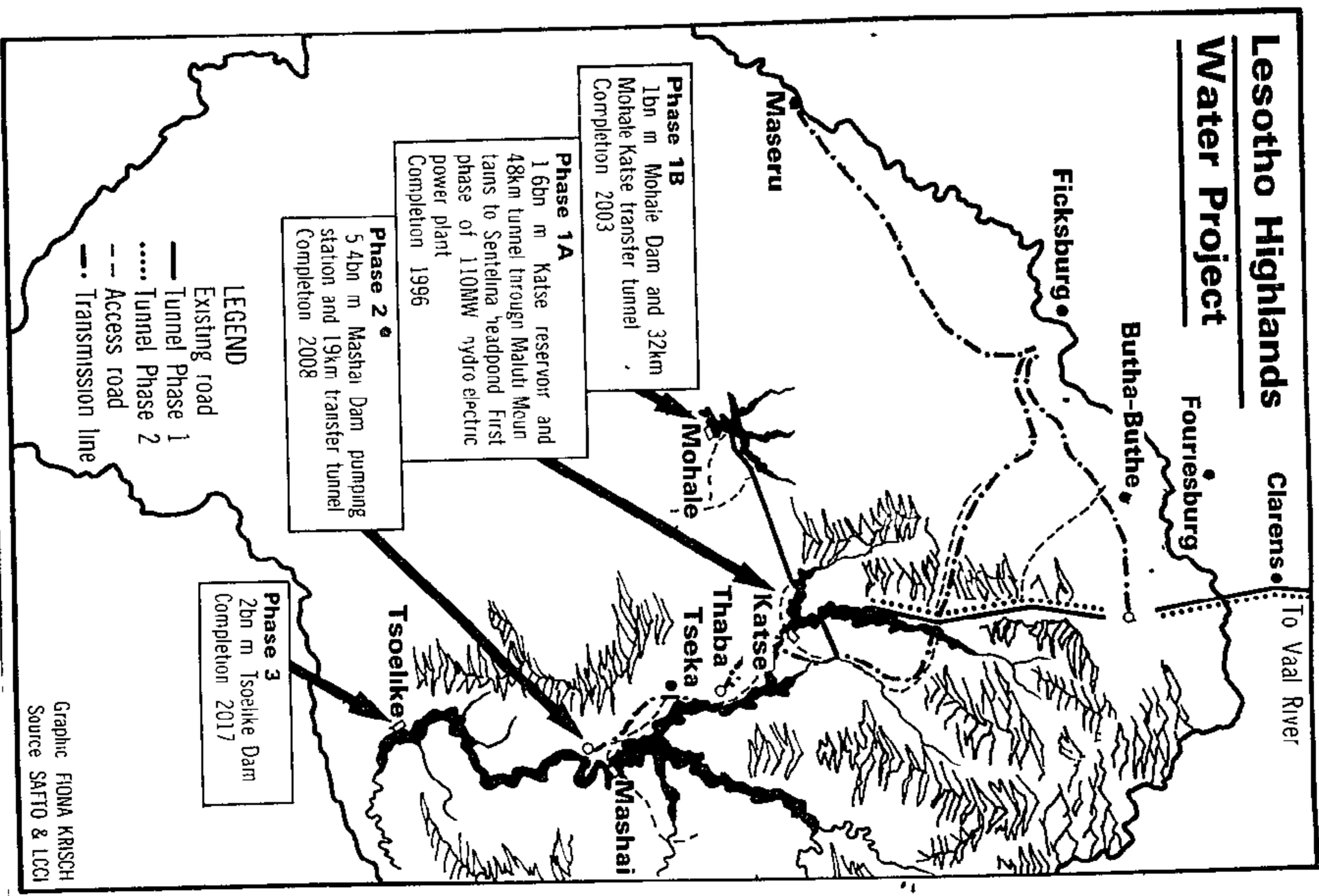
LTA, S M Goldstein, Concor and Inter-globe Trading are involved in smaller consortiums and are tendering for all the LHWP contracts.

LTA has been involved in infrastructural work in Lesotho and is constructing a R50m access road. It has completed construction on the R2,5m 70m Katse Bridge and is working on the R12m, 465m Malibamalso Bridge and the R1,8m, 92m Bohlahla Bridge.

LTA is confident of its chances for the Katse Dam while Group Five is also tendering for the dam.

Four other SA companies, Shaft Sinkers, Ruc Mining Contracting, GFC Mining and Grinaker Construction, together with an Italian concern, have formed Trans Highlands Tunneling Contractors and are tendering for the three major tunnel contracts.

The Lesotho Highlands Water Authority is gearing up to award contracts worth billions for the first phase of the Lesotho Highlands Water scheme — and dozens of registered contractors from as far afield as China are queuing up for a piece of the action. BRENT MELVILLE reports from Maseru.



HUMANAND

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

QUESTIONS

Indicates translated version

For written reply

General Affairs

Drought conditions: loss of foreign exchange

310 Mr R J LORIMER asked the Minister of Agriculture

What is the estimated loss of foreign exchange suffered by the Republic in 1988 in respect of (a) additional imports and (b) loss of exports attributable to drought conditions in the Republic?

B653E

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE

During 1988 agricultural production was adversely affected in certain areas, but in the country as a whole, weather conditions were generally favourable. Certain branches of the agricultural industry recorded higher production whereas others showed lower than normal production. This tendency can be ascribed mainly to structural changes in agriculture. It therefore follows that under these circumstances it is not possible to determine the impact of drought on the imports and exports of agricultural products, specifically for 1988.

Lesotho Highlands Water Project: total cost

401 Mr J R DE VILLE asked the Minister of Water Affairs

(1) What is the estimated total cost of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project, (b)(i) by whom and (ii) when was this estimate made and (c) when is it anticipated that this project will be completed,

- (2) what amount will South Africa be contributing to this project,
- (3) whether the Government intends recovering this amount from the South African consumer; if so, what method is envisaged?

B720E

The MINISTER OF WATER AFFAIRS

(1) (a) R3.3 billion in August 1988 values for Phase 1A, excluding the hydro-electric component which is to be financed by Lesotho

(b) (i) The Lesotho Highlands Development Authority and the Trans-Caledon Tunnel Authority

(ii) March 1989

(c) First half of 1996

(2) No financial contribution will be made by South Africa as the Project will be financed by loans

(3) Yes. In the form of a tariff on water sold to the consumer from the Project and a levy on the existing water sales in the area to be supplied by water from the Project

Lesotho Highlands Water Project hotel complex

402 Mr J R DE VILLE asked the Minister of Water Affairs

(1) Whether a hotel complex is to be developed as part of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project, if so,

(2) whether any concessions have been granted in this regard, if so (a) when, (b) by whom, (c) to whom or what hotel group and (d) on what basis were these concessions granted?

B721E

The MINISTER OF WATER AFFAIRS

- (1) No not in the Republic of South Africa
- (2) No not in the Republic of South Africa
- (a) (b), (c) and (d) Fall away

Top Lesotho politician detained

S.A.S.
11/6/89

The Star's Africa
& News Service

167

MASERU — Lesotho's military authorities have detained a leading politician and economics lecturer at the University of Lesotho, Mr Joel Moitse, under the Internal Security Act

This was confirmed yesterday by the Vice-Chancellor of the university, Professor Adamu Baikie, who said South African-born Mr Moitse was arrested by police at the Roma campus last Friday

He was transferred to Maseru where he is being held in custody

No official announcement of Mr Moitse's detention has yet been made.

It is believed the authorities are investigating his alleged involvement in political activities, after the publication of a statement by six Basotho political leaders demanding a return to parliamentary democracy in Lesotho and the restoring of the 1966 independence constitution

Mr Moitse is a former Cabinet Minister in the government of the late Prime Minister Leabua Jonathan. He also served at one time as pro-Vice Chancellor of the university.

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THE WORLD

Lesotho civil servants face mass firings

By MZIMKULU MALUNGA

THOUSANDS of Lesotho's civil servants are likely to lose their jobs following a government decision to slash public spending.

Already a number of older teachers have been fired, while a range of austerity measures have been introduced in government departments.

The move is in line with recommendations made in September last year by the International Monetary Fund, in response to worsening economic conditions in the country.

A committee of five principal secretaries — top officials in government ministries — was formed in November last year to examine how the government could cut expenditure.

Their report, a copy of which has come into the possession of the *Weekly Mail*, refers to the need to reduce the number of public sector workers, and to freeze wages and posts.

It recommends that civil service allowances for transport and international travel, as well as contributions to international organisations, should undergo severe cuts.

The IMF is due to send representatives to Maseru this month to assess if its recommendations are being followed, and may call for further austerity measures, according to the Young Christian Students (YCS). Youth organisations under the YCS banner are planning a campaign against the IMF and the austerity measures.

A YCS representative said his organisation was going to convene a meeting in Mafeteng on June 9 to plan a campaign against both the government and the IMF.

"The government has not consulted the people on this issue," he said.

He argued that the recommendations would result in the loss of thousands of jobs.

Last October the chairman of the six-man ruling military council, Major-General Metsing Lekhanya, said the time had come for the government to cut the number of civil servants. He said the civil service was over-staffed and that over 70 percent of the country's budget went on civil service salaries.

About 30 000 people are employed by the Lesotho government, and of these, more than 10 000 are daily rated staff. According to the committee of principal secretaries, most of them are concentrated in the ministries of interior and agriculture.

The committee recommended that a three-day working week be introduced for the daily-rated employees (employees whose salaries are calculated in terms of days worked) and that principal secretaries be surcharged if the ministries' wage expenditure was in excess of approved levels.

All posts and promotions for employees in grades one to seven (employees earning between R120 and R800 a month) are likely to be frozen until the end of the 1988/89 financial year.

Already, wage increases have been suspended until April 1990, while all wage-earners over 55 years of age with 10 years's service are being retired. The committee recommended that future increments should take into account efforts to control state expenditure.

Hundreds of older teachers have already lost their jobs because of the recommendations.

A 65-year-old teacher at one of the primary schools in the north-east of the country for more than 15 years, said. "I am one of the lucky few, most of the people with whom I started teaching have been forcibly retired. I can also see that my days as a teacher are numbered".

Lesotho cars vandalised (167)

Right-wingers are suspected of vandalising eight cars belonging to Lesotho tourists staying at a Rustenburg hotel at the weekend 19/11/89

The paintwork of the vehicles was scratched, one with the words "Wit Wolf", and the number plates kicked off

Western Transvaal police spokesman Captain Ben van Heerden confirmed detectives were investigating the Saturday night incident, which took place outside the Cashane Hotel after an argument between three white men and the tourists — Crime Reporter.

star 23/6/89

Progress slow on water scheme after attack by locals 167

The Star's Africa News Service
Work at two bridge sites on the Lesotho Highlands Water Scheme resumed yesterday under guard after stonings by local villagers halted work early this week.

It is believed not all workers, including South Africans, have returned as no one knows if the attacks have ended. Progress is reported to be slow.

The stonings occurred last Friday and on Monday at Boloha near Pitseng and near Ha Lejone

Yesterday the Lesotho Highlands Development Authority would not comment. Contractors said no one knew what had precipitated the attacks.

Earlier this year The Star's Africa News Service reported local resentment to the scheme. Locals complained about "rowdiness" of workers, bad attitudes to local women, the use of South African labour on site and lack of compensation for fields ruined.

Lekhanya to go after killing (167)

MASERU — The killing of a student after an alleged rape is threatening to topple Lesotho's military leader, Major-General Metsing Lekhanya, writes the *Observer*.

Lekhanya is said to have shot the student in an

incident at Maseru's Agricultural College last December, but a body-guard with him made a false statement to police claiming responsibility.

This has led to pressure in the military council for his resignation.

Sunday Mail

Own Correspondent

LONDON — Lesotho's military leader, Major General Metsing Lekhanya, admitted to members of the Military Council that he had shot dead a student, according to a report in yesterday's Observer newspaper.

The report, written by former Rand Daily Mail editor Mr Allister Sparks, claimed the major-general "is said" to have shot 20-year-old Mr George Ramone on the night of December 23, but that a bodyguard with him had made a false statement to police claiming responsibility.

"The incident has been hushed up but a highly-placed government source said yesterday Lekhanya admitted at a staff meeting of 16 key figures in the administration that it

Lesotho leader 'admitted he killed student'

*Capt. Tsof's
26/6/89
167*

was he who had shot the student," the report claimed.

So far the 51-year-old leader has resisted pressure from within the Military Council for him to resign, but "as the scandal becomes more public, it seems he will be forced to quit."

According to the newspaper, on the evening of his death Mr Ramone had been drinking at a shebeen with domestic worker Ms Puleng Makara just off Maseru's Agricultural College campus.

They left separately and "what happened

next is a matter of dispute." She claims the student tried to rape her and, when she called for help, two men appeared. Mr Ramone ran off, pursued by one of the men, while the second helped her into a car and later drove her to a police station where she was told of the shooting.

The second man, a Sergeant Mojakhomo, made two statements about the incident.

"In the second he said he had shot Mr Ramone.

But in a secret memorandum to the Military Council, attorney-general Mr Kelebone

Maope pointed out that this could not have been true since it was Sgt Mojakhomo who stayed with Ms Makara and drove her to the police station," said the report.

He allegedly stated bluntly that he did not believe the sergeant was telling the truth and warned he "is likely to break down under cross-examination at a public inquiry and reveal who really did the shooting."

Soon after the warning Major General Lekhanya is alleged to have admitted he pulled the trigger.

He apparently told them he was "on patrol" in the college grounds when he saw the attempted rape and challenged Mr Ramone, who fled and was then shot.

He did not explain why he was "patrolling" the campus late at night.

2-16-68 167

A-G gives assurance on Lesotho shooting

By John Ryan, The Star's Africa News Service

MASERU — Lesotho's Attorney-General gave an assurance last night that "justice will be done" over an incident last December where the chairman of the

ruling Military Council, Major-General Justin Lekhanya, is alleged to have been involved in the fatal shooting of a student, Mr George Ramone.

(20)

The Attorney-General, Mr Kalebone Maope, said a police docket had already been opened on the matter and an inquest would be conducted.

It is understood certain councillors are waiting for the claims to be made public before asking the general to resign.

The young student was shot in the grounds of Maseru's Agricultural College. Sources say the general then ordered a bodyguard to claim responsibility.

Lesotho AG promises justice over shooting of student

From JOHN RYAN ^{172043 27/6/87} 167
Argus Africa News Service

MASERU — Lesotho's Attorney General has promised that "justice will be done" over an incident last December where the chairman of the ruling Military Council, Major-General Justin Lekhanya, is alleged to have been involved in the fatal shooting of a 20-year-old student

Reports of the incident, carried in a weekend newspaper, were the main topic of discussion in the country yesterday. A Maseru lawyer said "The country is on fire, talking about it"

The Attorney-General, Mr Kalebone Maope, said a police docket had already been opened on the matter and an inquest would be conducted into the death of the student, George Mone Ramone

Members of the Military Council and Council of Ministers were locked in a meeting for most of the day.

"My function is to see that justice will be done," Mr Maope said.

The allegations have threatened to cause another leader-

ship crisis in Lesotho. It is understood certain military councillors have been waiting for the claims to be made public before asserting pressure on General Lekhanya to resign

The young student died on the night of December 23 at Maseru's Agricultural College. Sources say the general then ordered a bodyguard who was with him to claim responsibility

Senior police and army officers are being tight lipped about the incident

However, a highly-placed government source said at the weekend General Lekhanya had confessed at a top staff meeting

The source said the general told the meeting he had been "on patrol" at the college and had chanced upon an attempted rape

More power cuts

MONTEVIDEO — Scheduled power cuts in this capital city of 1.2-million will be doubled to six hours a day. Most of drought-hit Uruguay relies on hydro-electricity. — Sapa-AP

Probe into claim general a killer

167

Sowetan 29/1/89

MASERU — Lesotho's military leaders and Cabinet Ministers have been locked in meetings since Monday after allegations that the chairman of the Military Council, Major-General Justin Lekhanya, was involved in the fatal shooting of a 20-year-old student last December.

Attempts to reach the general for comment about the allegations, carried in the *Sunday Star* at the weekend, have been unsuccessful. However, a spokesman

for King Moshoeshoe II — the head of state and nominal head of government — said the reports were being fully investigated.

The Attorney-General, Mr Kalebone Maope, said on Monday a police docket had already been opened on the matter and an inquest would be conducted into the death of the student, George Mone Ramone.

"My function is to see that justice will be done," Mr Maope said.

DBSA boosts investment ¹⁶⁷ in neighbouring territories

stev 17/89

JABULANI SIKHAKHANE

THE DEVELOPMENT Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA) is steadily increasing its involvement in neighbouring African countries with approved and future financial contributions to the Lesotho Highlands Water Scheme alone estimated at R409 million.

According to the bank's report for the year-end March 1989 the DBSA became involved for the first time in a neighbouring country with the approval of finance for advance infrastructure for projects forming part of the total Highlands Water Scheme.

The programme has expanded significantly and now includes roads, bridges, urban and village development and business and institutional development.

The Bank has completed a project for a study into integrated forestry development potential in southern Mozambique. Further DBSA involvement in bulk infra-

structure development as well as agricultural development is under discussion.

An investment in a sugar experimental station project to address the needs of small and commercial farmers in Mozambique has been approved.

DBSA chairman, Dr Simon Brand says the involvement of the Bank in Lesotho and on a smaller scale in several other non-member neighbouring countries is assuming significant proportions. It illustrates the Bank's considerable progress in extending its role towards becoming a truly Southern African institution.

"This has assisted greatly in increasing contact and co-operation with international development agencies. It is the intention to carry on this direction," says Dr Brand.

Buses safer

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LESOTHO nationals of the Lehahlaua-Ko-pano Ke Matla — an association of Basotho on the East Rand — said yesterday *so welem 4/7/89.* from home due to increased fares and the high accident rate involving taxis

They have instead opted to use South African Transport Services' buses since these were cheaper and safer, Mr M N-Mohahlaua, chairman

"The S'ATS buses leave for Lesotho from the Natalspruit Hospital "The bus fares to Maseru is R20 and for the Maseru trip R30," said Mohahlaua

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Design for SA, Lesotho tunnel nears readiness

163) GERALD REILLY

PRETORIA — The design contract for the massive delivery tunnel to channel water from the Lesotho border into SA is nearing completion, says a Trans-Caledon Tunnel Authority (TCTA) spokesman

It was planned to call for tenders by March next year and to have construction started in the second half of the year

The delivery tunnel, a key link in the Lesotho Highlands scheme, is 37km long and has a 4,5m diameter

The construction at 1988 prices is estimated to cost in excess of R3bn. Overall construction time is estimated at five years

In terms of the agreement, water has to be delivered to SA by 1996.

Water from the Katse Dam — now being built in Lesotho — will be taken via a transfer tunnel to the Muela Dam, which has still to be built, and there it will pass along the delivery tunnel on the SA side to the outfall point at Clarence in the eastern Free State. It will eventually be channeled into the Vaal Dam.

Labour Relations Act high on Cosatu congress agenda

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — The union campaign against the Labour Relations Act (LRA) will be one of the main issues for discussion at Cosatu's four-day third national congress beginning here on Wednesday, general secretary Mr Jay Naidoo said

The congress is to be attended by 1 875 delegates representing the 921 497 paid-up members of Cosatu's 16 affiliates

Mr Naidoo said serious attention would also be given to the question of political negotiations

Cosatu's basic position was that the democratic movement had never opposed meaningful negotiations, and it was up to the government to create

conditions for free political activity which would make them possible

The congress would also discuss Cosatu's vision of the future. This would include debate on the ANC's constitutional guidelines, the "fraudulent" September 6 elections, and the NP's recently announced five-year plan

The Natal peace initiative, including the Cosatu and UDF talks with Inkatha, and calls for an independent commission of inquiry into the regional violence, would be a further matter addressed, Mr Naidoo said

Broadening an anti-apartheid coalition, sanctions and disinvestment, privatisation and deregulation, Aids, union unity, and unemployment are also on the agenda

Lesotho fears that crisis ⁽¹⁶⁷⁾ could bring ^{war} S Africans in

By MZIMKULU MALUNGA

SOURCES in Lesotho fear that the political crisis centring on military strongman Major-General Metsing Lekhanya could precipitate South African interference in the country.

The ruling élite appears hopelessly divided on the question of whether Lekhanya should retain his position, while the general appears determined to cling to power.

The conflict has its origins in a mystery-shrouded incident in December last year when a 20-year-old student at the Agricultural College in Maseru, George Ramone, was allegedly shot dead by Lekhanya.

Lekhanya apparently ordered his bodyguard to claim responsibility for the shooting. However, the bodyguard is understood to have been pressured by the general's political opponents into making a statement implicating him in the murder.

Both the military council and the minister's council are reported to be deeply divided on the issue of Lekhanya's resignation. It appears that his political rivals seized on the shooting incident as a way of unseating him — but the general also commands significant support in both councils.

He has already rejected a recommendation that he take leave.

Neither the authorities nor the official opposition has officially commented on the issue.

A politician who asked to remain nameless said the present crisis was the worst since the army deposed the late Chief Leabua Jonathan in January 1986.

"I am afraid there may be a military solution," he said, adding that Lekhanya's position had been bolstered by the possibility of South African interference. "These soldiers know that the Boers do not play. They know very well what happened in Bophuthatswana."

"As long as this government remains narrowly based, the crisis will deepen. The only solution is to return Lesotho to a broad-based government, representative of all sectors of the population. In that way it can resist outside interference."

Observers suggest that the compromise and secrecy which have characterised the country's politics for the past two decades have corrupted many senior government officials.

The current crisis comes against the background of a series of unresolved killings in Lesotho which are widely seen as politically motivated. Recently, three people were shot dead when a bus was attacked by men armed with automatic rifles.

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Lesotho fears that crisis ⁽¹⁶⁷⁾ could bring ^{Wmail} S Africans in

By MZIMKULU MALUNGA

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The ruling élite appears hopelessly divided on the question of whether Lekhanya should retain his position, while the general appears determined to cling to power.

The conflict has its origins in a mystery-shrouded incident in December last year when a 20-year-old student at the Agricultural College in Maseru, George Ramone, was allegedly shot dead by Lekhanya.

Lekhanya apparently ordered his bodyguard to claim responsibility for the shooting. However, the bodyguard is understood to have been pressured by the general's political opponents into making a statement implicating him in the murder.

Both the military council and the minister's council are reported to be deeply divided on the issue of Lekhanya's resignation. It appears that his political rivals seized on the shooting incident as a way of unseating him — but the general also commands significant support in both councils.

He has already rejected a recommendation that he take leave.

Neither the authorities nor the official opposition has officially commented on the issue.

A politician who asked to remain nameless said the present crisis was the worst since the army deposed the late Chief Leabua Jonathan in January 1986.

"I am afraid there may be a military solution," he said, adding that Lekhanya's position had been bolstered by the possibility of South African interference. "These soldiers know that the Boers do not play. They know very well what happened in Bophuthatswana.

"As long as this government remains narrowly based, the crisis will deepen. The only solution is to return Lesotho to a broad-based government, representative of all sectors of the population. In that way it can resist outside interference."

Observers suggest that the compromise and secrecy which have characterised the country's politics for the past two decades have corrupted many senior government officials.

The current crisis comes against the background of a series of unresolved killings in Lesotho which are widely seen as politically motivated. Recently, three people were shot dead when a bus was attacked by men armed with automatic rifles.

Corruption is rife in Lesotho, says expelled magnate

ST Times 9/17/84 167
THE shooting scandal which has plunged Lesotho into a political crisis is only the tip of the iceberg, says an Italian businessman who was deported from the country.

Official corruption is rampant in the landlocked kingdom, says Mr Giuseppe Florio who was expelled from Lesotho in September last year.

Licence

Mr Florio, who lived in Maseru for 15 years and is married to a Lesotho citizen, is the country's biggest single employer after the government, with more than 500 employees.

He has nearly R10-million tied up in a number of business interests, which he owns and manages.

He claims his problems began after a Taiwanese businessman, Mr Vincent Lai, gave the military leader, Major-General Justin Lekhanya, a 20 percent share in his company for R200, although the company then had a listed value of more than R200 000.

Not long after Mr Lekhanya became a partner in Mr Lai's business, Mr Florio was informed by the military council that he could not operate one of his businesses,

By MANDLA TYALA

a stone quarry, without a mining licence.

The quarry licence was given to Mr Lai's company, boosting its value to more than R1-million, and Mr Lekhanya's stake to more than R250 000.

Mr Florio challenged the action against his business, but the government cancelled his permanent residence permit, which was issued in 1980, saying he had flouted the law by engaging in mining activities without authorisation.

He was given less than a month to leave Lesotho.

Shot

When Mr Florio went to court to seek a respite, Mr Lekhanya, who is also Minister of Defence and Internal

JUSTIN LEKHANYA
Head of Junta

Security, said in an affidavit the government had information that Mr Florio's activities were "not in the interests of defence, public safety and public order".

Mr Florio, whose wife and four children are still in Maseru, now lives in South Africa in a hotel just across the Lesotho border.

After two weeks, Mr Lekhanya still has not denied or commented on widely published allegations that he shot dead a student.

LESOTHO GRIPPED

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BY TENSION

THE Basotho nation held its breath last week as the crisis over the position of military strongman Major-General Justin Metsing Lekhanya threatened to erupt into a public confrontation and even violence.

The country has been on edge since allegations were published two weeks ago that Lekhanya shot dead a 20-year-old student in mysterious circumstances last December.

A highly-placed source said at the weekend that tension within the ruling Military Council and Council of Ministers was reaching breaking point.

"Something is imminent," the source said. "Something must

SOWETIAN Africa
News Service

happen soon. It cannot go on like this."

With Lekhanya continuing to refuse to resign over the reports, and several military councillors and Ministers reportedly refusing to have any dealings with him while he remains in office, the government of Lesotho is in a state of virtual paralysis.

King Moshoeshoe II, the head of state and nominal head of government, has made it plain he wants the general out — at least until the allegations against him have been fully investigated. Lekhanya snubbed the king by

failing to arrive at a meeting at the palace to discuss the issue.

It was an almost unprecedented act of discourtesy in Basotho tradition and has angered many people, including top officials in the administration who are related to the royal family.

Speculation is rife that two of these, military councillors Colonel Thabae Letsie and Colonel Sekhobe Letsie, will head a campaign soon to have Lekhanya dismissed or forced out.

The sibling colonels, members of the same chieftaincy as Moshoeshoe, are both highly ambitious. They are also known to be resentful of the fact that Lekhanya rules Lesotho when he does not belong to a chieftaincy

Thatcher asked to help in Lesotho

MASERU — Lesotho's opposition United Democratic Party (UDP) leader Charles Mofeli has invited British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and Botswana's President Quett Masire to open a diplomatic initiative to help bring peace to the country.

(167) Blday 12/7/87
Mofeli said yesterday if persistent newspaper reports alleging division and deadlock on resolving the mysterious shooting of a student at the Lesotho Agricultural College in December were true, then Lesotho had reached a constitutional crisis that could be resolved only through an all-party conference. He was concerned about allegations that the Lesotho government

was in a state of paralysis.

He called upon Basotho of all persuasions to stand up and "shout with one voice" that Lesotho declare a truce on all internal hostilities and recriminations.

The nation has been on tenterhooks over the past two weeks since allegations that the Chairman of the Military Council of Lesotho, Maj-Gen Metsing Lekhanya, shot dead a 20-year student, George Ramone, in mysterious circumstances at the Lesotho Agricultural College campus on December 23.

The Lesotho government has not reacted to allegations that the weekly cabinet meeting yesterday placed the matter on its agenda — Sapa

Death-trap . . . the gutted Highlands North house in which Mr Enoch Simon and his wife, Rose, were burnt to death on Monday night. ●Picture. Herbert Mabuza.

Lesotho opposition calls for diplomacy thrust

The Star's Africa News Service

MASERU — Lesotho's opposition United Democratic Party yesterday urged British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, Botswana's President Quett Masire and "other traditional partners" to mount diplomatic initiatives to help bring peace to the country

A statement issued by the leader of the party, Mr Charles Mofeli, yesterday said, "Lesotho cannot afford to be at war against itself when other nations are just setting up goals of national peace and reconciliation"

Referring to allegations that Lesotho's military strongman, Major-General Justin Metsing Lekhanya, was involved in the shooting of a 20-year-old student last December, Mr Mofeli called upon Basutoes of

Star 12/7/87
all political allegiances and "social persuasions" to stand up and "shout with one voice that Lesotho declare a truce on all internal hostilities and recriminations, especially in Military Council circles"

DIALOGUE 167

In the first internal reaction to the allegations made in Argus weekend newspapers late last month, the UDP statement said Lesotho should declare a national amnesty for all "people who may be involved in any mysterious killings of other persons and launch a national compensation scheme to cover the victims of the mysterious killings"

Mr-Mofeli also called for a national day of prayer for peace and reconciliation, in-

volving "inter-party dialogue" aimed at establishing an all-party government of national reconciliation

This government, he said, should then work out "a constitutional dispensation" and prepare the country for a general election.

He said if the reports claiming division and deadlock within the ruling Military Council and possible recriminations over the shooting were "anything to go by", and if the assertion that the government was in a state of paralysis was true, then "Lesotho has reached a constitutional crisis in her military-monarchy rule which can only be resolved through a conference of all parties and representatives of traditional chiefs"

LESOTHO GRY FOR HELP

999 SOWETAN, Wednesday, July 2, 1989

LESOTHO'S opposition United Democratic Party yesterday urged British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, Botswana's President Quett Masire and "other traditional partners" to mount diplomatic initiatives to help bring peace to the country.

A statement issued by the leader of the party, Mr Charles Mofeli, yesterday said: "Lesotho cannot afford to be at war against itself when other nations are just setting up goals of national peace and reconciliation."

Strongman

Referring to allegations that Lesotho's military strongman, Major-General Justin Meking Lekhanya, was involved in the shooting of a 20-year-old student last December, Mofeli called upon Basutos of all political alliances and "social



GENERAL LEKHANYA

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Lesotho must declare a truce on all internal

Plea to

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tims of the mysterious killings."

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Election

This government, he said, should then work out "a constitutional dispensation" and prepare the country for a general election.

The student, George Mone Ramone, was killed at Maseru's agricultural college on the night of December 23 last year. Highly placed sources say Lekhanya then ordered a body-guard who was with him to claim responsibility.

1167

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LESOTHO leader Major General Metsing Lekhanya faces two options either he makes himself a strongman" and dissolves the ruling Military Council, or his opponents will force him out.

There is increasing tension within both the ruling Military Council and the Council of Ministers on the question of the general's resignation.

Few people in Lesotho rule out the possibility of a violent confrontation between competing factions in the country's ruling class.

There are also suggestions from Maseru that the government is likely to issue a statement soon.

Lekhanya has demonstrated his refusal to step down under any circumstances. Last week he refused to honour an invitation from King Moshoeshoe II and went to attend a soldiers' parade. In the process he instructed the soldiers to listen to him and him "alone and nobody else".

Some ministers who supported the move that he resign have refused to co-operate with him.

People were afraid that if the conflict did result in a military confrontation, the king would also be affected, since he was known to be backing the anti-Lekhanya group.

This group is spearheaded by Colonel Sekhobe Letsie and his relative Colonel Thabane Letsie who are both members of the royal family.

Sekhobe Letsie has been Lekhanya's rival in the ruling Military Council since the army came into power in 1986.

Last year prior to the Pope's visit there were rumours of an "imminent coup" apparently plotted by the Letsies and company, but Lekhanya, allegedly with some 'foreign interven-

Two courses for Lekhanya: Straight up or straight out

Troubled Lesotho military strongman Metsing Lekhanya faces two nasty options. Either he deals with his opponents — perhaps with some help from South Africa — or his foes will deal with him. By MZIMKULU MALUNGA

tion", pushed him aside.

Sekhobe Letsie and the king did not go with the Lesotho delegation which went to meet the Pope at the Maseru border gate. They also did not attend the beatification of Father Joseph Gerard which was the climax of the Pope's visit.

Before then Letsie was responsible for issuing statements on behalf of the Military Council, but since the split, he has been silent and the job has been done by Tom Thabane, the government secretary.

However, political observers argue that most people in Lesotho support neither of the factions in the present leadership struggle. They attribute this to two scenarios.

If the Letsie factions emerge as victors in the current battle, the country would likely be returned to a rigorous monarchy, where chiefs would wield power and suppress party politics.

The Letsies are known for their "feudalistic convictions" and resentment of Lekhanya as a commoner leading "his majesty's government".

But if Lekhanya and his supporters emerge as winners, the country was likely to be subjected to an increased "foreign control" and that the kingdom will just "fade out".

This week one politician Charles Mofeli, leader of the United Democratic Party (UDP), appealed to British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and President Quett Masire of Botswana to intervene in the crisis.

Mofeli called on all sectors of the population to come together and declare cessation of all hostilities and recriminations.

"Lesotho cannot afford to be at war with itself while other nations are busy setting up goals of national peace and reconciliation," he said.

He also called for the holding of a



national day of prayer for inter-party dialogue and the establishment of a government of national reconciliation.

Mofeli is a member of a group of politicians called the "Big Five" who represent five political parties in Lesotho, but he said he was speaking only on behalf of his party.

Another politician who wished to remain nameless, said "The only genuine solution to the problems of this country is to let the people elect the government of their choice, something they have not had a chance to do since Leabua (Jonathan) seized power in 1970".

The present crisis was sparked a fortnight ago when an overseas newspaper carried a report about the mysterious killing of a student last December at the Lesotho Agricultural College.

Lekhanya was accused of the shoot-

ing of 20-year-old George Ramone of Qoaling in Maseru a third-year livestock management student. Amid the scandal he allegedly forced his bodyguard, a Sergeant Mojakhomo, to claim responsibility for the shooting.

Ramone's mother has suffered a heart attack following her son's death. When the *Weekly Mail* visited the family this week the mother was too ill to talk. The father, Napo Ramone, said he had already lost hope on that the killers of his son would ever be brought to justice when the newspapers revealed the matter.

Similar incidents have occurred to people of high standing in this country and nothing was done about it. I am just a nobody. I did not think anything would even be said about my son's death," said the grieving man on the death of his seventh and last-born child.

Lawyers for the family were pressing for an inquest, but it was still not clear whether it would be held.

There were also reports that the acting principal of the school, CT Keta, was transferred to Leribe soon after the incident following a statement he made to the police concerning the killing.

In the wake of the latest crisis facing the country church leaders had been trying to hold talks with Lekhanya but without success.

Heads of churches have condemned what appears to be a resurgence of mysterious murders and appealed to the government to make thorough investigations of all incidents.

"To cover up matters of such magnitude in the hope that they will be forgotten cannot be acceptable to the minds of thoughtful people," the church leaders added.

A corruption scandal to which few dare admit

SOME senior Lesotho government officials have been implicated in corruption scandals but all these incidents have been covered up.

In three cases, junior officers who knew the details were either told to "shut up if you still want to work for your children", transferred to other departments or fired from their positions.

Those who refused to keep quiet or threatened to reveal all irregularities concerning government officials were subjected to continual harassment.

There are allegations that top officials in government departments (including ministers and members of the Military Council) are involved in corruption.

Hence, when a scandal breaks it is covered up for fear that it might bring other irregularities to the surface.

Last year government secretary Tom Thabane was implicated in a mandrax scandal — but the issue vanished" from the scene after his name was mentioned amongst those to whom drugs had been sent from Nairobi, Kenya.

Local journalists apparently knew about the scandal but said they were afraid to report about it.

In another incident, the current minister of finance, Retselisitsoe Sekhonyana, was implicated in the contravention of foreign exchange regulations and was also linked with a controversial Italian company called Benco International.

When the story was broken by a local independent newspaper called *The Mirror*, the government responded by instituting defamation charges against the newspaper and expelling its editor, Johnny Masoko.

Benco was a construction company given a contract by the Lesotho government in the late 1970s, when Sekhonyana was finance minister, to build several buildings, including the present Lesotho Sun Hotel (then called the Hilton Hotel) and the Lesotho Central Bank building.

Expenditure went far over the amount budgeted for them, hence the country's foreign reserves were drained.

According to documents in the possession of *Weekly Mail*, Benco —

Lesotho is rife with tales of corruption. And documents in the possession of *Weekly Mail* reveal that huge sums were shifted to a Swiss bank account, reports MZIMKULU MALUNGA

with the help of Sekhonyana — started transferring huge sums of money from its Lesotho bank account into an account in Switzerland.

The documents state that in one day in February 1981 seven months after the transfers began, the company transferred more than R2-million making two different applications which were approved by the minister.

In August 1981 the company was liquidated and Benco was expelled from Lesotho for its failure to finish its projects. Subsequently Lesotho had to borrow millions of rands from South Africa in order to pay its civil servants.

Sekhonyana was transferred to the Interior Ministry as minister, and the scandal was only brought to the attention of the public seven years later, when newspapers highlighted it.

Ironically when the present military government came to power in 1986, it promised a commission of inquiry into corruption scandals involving former government officials, but this was never done.

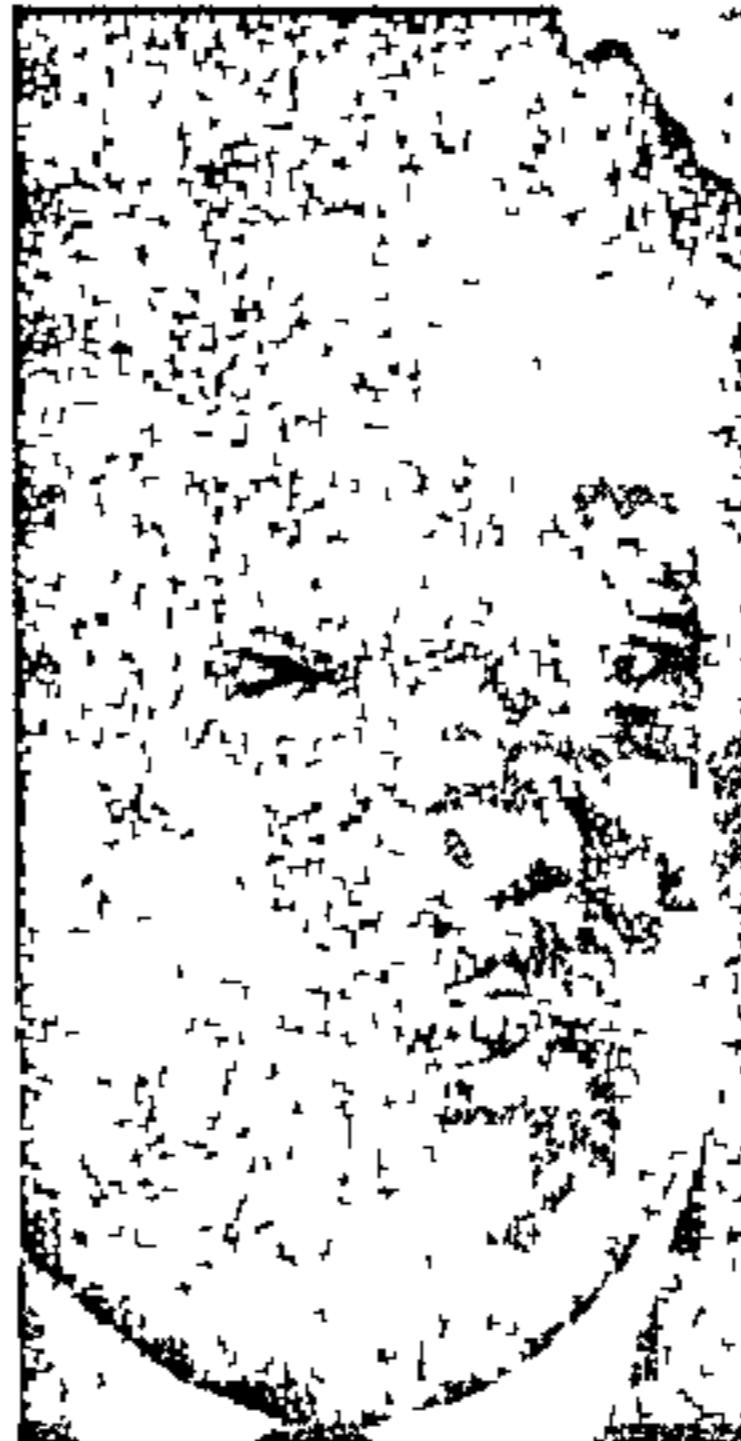
Instead, the military regime made a surprise appointment of Sekhonyana as minister of finance.

Back in the Finance Department Sekhonyana launched a slow-motion crackdown on the people who were believed to have details about his corruption scandals.

Haac Phoofolo, the former deputy governor of the Lesotho Central Bank, was dismissed in early 1987 following the findings of a commission of inquiry appointed by the government on Sekhonyana's recommendations.

In 1986, Phoofolo approved an application made by a company called Malibamatso Mining Company to bring R10-million in financial rands into the country to engage in mining and quarrying in Lesotho.

The money was supposed to be systematically brought in, using the



Retselisitsoe Sekhonyana

South African Reserve Bank facility.

After the first amount arrived, Sekhonyana accused Phoofolo of having accepted the investment application of a company which did not have a mining licence.

"My reply to him was that it was not my responsibility to see to it that the company had a mining licence," argued Phoofolo.

The government appointed a commission to investigate what was termed Phoofolo's "irregularities". The commission found him guilty of "gross misconduct". He was fired and later charged with contravention of the foreign exchange regulations.

The case focused on an application he had made to the minister of finance to have money from a family friend in England sent to him in Lesotho.

In his application Phoofolo had specified the money was for the purpose of erecting his father's tombstone.

Sekhonyana sent a representative of the South African Reserve Bank to "investigate" Phoofolo.

He was accused of making conflicting statements. He was charged and later convicted in the Lesotho High Court.

Phoofolo's appeal will be heard on July 24.

A cross-border kidnap by a 'back-door' salesman

A FORMER state intelligence member claims he was kidnapped from Lesotho in March, taken across the border and interrogated by South Africans who tried to recruit him as their agent.

Sekhonyana Molapo, a former member of the National Security Services (NSS) which handled intelligence services during the reign of the late Chief Leabua Jonathan, claimed he was abducted by a gun-toting South African "furniture salesman".

He said he was initially phoned by a man who said his name was "Janki", and who claimed to be a South African policeman.

He met Janki and his colleagues at a Chinese restaurant in Maseru, where they tried to recruit him as an agent. "I refused straight away, but they told me to go back and consider the offer. Even when they phoned me again I still refused," he said.

"Some time later, I met a man called 'Mokotatsie' who sold furniture. I needed a television set and he promised to sell me a remote controlled TV for about R800," he said.

Regular meetings between Molapo and 'Mokotatsie' (whose name, he found out later, was actually Moletsane) took place as Molapo had promised to buy the TV as soon as he had generated enough cash.

"Sometimes he would phone at work and invite me for drinks at one of the liquor outlets in town. I made sure that I honoured these because I did not want him to disappear before selling me the TV," Molapo said.

On March 22 this year, his "friend" phoned to have drinks with him.

Molapo said he went to the meeting place with the aim of cancelling the appointment because he had promised to take his wife to the movies. But he believed his "friend" was "over-drunk" and could not walk.

"He asked me to do him a favour and just drop him at the border as his colleagues were waiting for him at the border gate," he said.

When the two reached the border, the "friend" asked to be dropped on the South African side next to the

A former member of Lesotho's intelligence service tells a strange tale of how he was abducted by men who tried to recruit him to spy for SA

passport control offices. "After I parked my car, hoping to drop him and go back, my friend pulled out a gun and instructed me out of the car into a cream white, four wheel drive parked nearby.

"Inside there were six men (three whites and three blacks), four of whom drove with me to Ladybrand," Molapo said.

At Ladybrand he was assaulted by a group of men carrying guns fitted with torches, and later pulled into a room where he was stripped naked and told that if he agreed to be an agent, he would be immediately released.

"The whole operation was meant to intimidate me so that I could agree to work as an agent, but when I refused even after the assaults, they appeared surprised," he said.

Molapo said he was asked whether he knew anything about the State of Emergency, when he replied "no", he was told he could be detained under the Emergency indefinitely.

Molapo was held for nine days before being released. On his arrival back in Lesotho he reported the matter to the police. He was promised that something would be done about it, but so far nothing had happened, he said.

●The South African Police say that their men have not been involved in the kidnapping of any person from Lesotho.

The police say "We decline to name any people who were or might have been questioned about the activities of the ANC."

"If any people allege to have been arrested by the Lesotho police in Lesotho they (Lesotho Police) and not the SAP should be approached for comment."

By MANDLA TYALA

A FORMER top civil servant and close relative of former Prime Minister Leabua Jonathan says he is ready to open a can of worms concerning corruption in Lesotho

As the political crisis which has engulfed the mountain kingdom over the past three weeks deepened, Mr Majara Molapo said he was prepared to "spill the beans" about alleged top-level malpractices

Sensitive

Mr Molapo former Deputy Permanent Secretary for Health, had more clout than the average high-ranking government official because of his close relations with the late Prime Minister

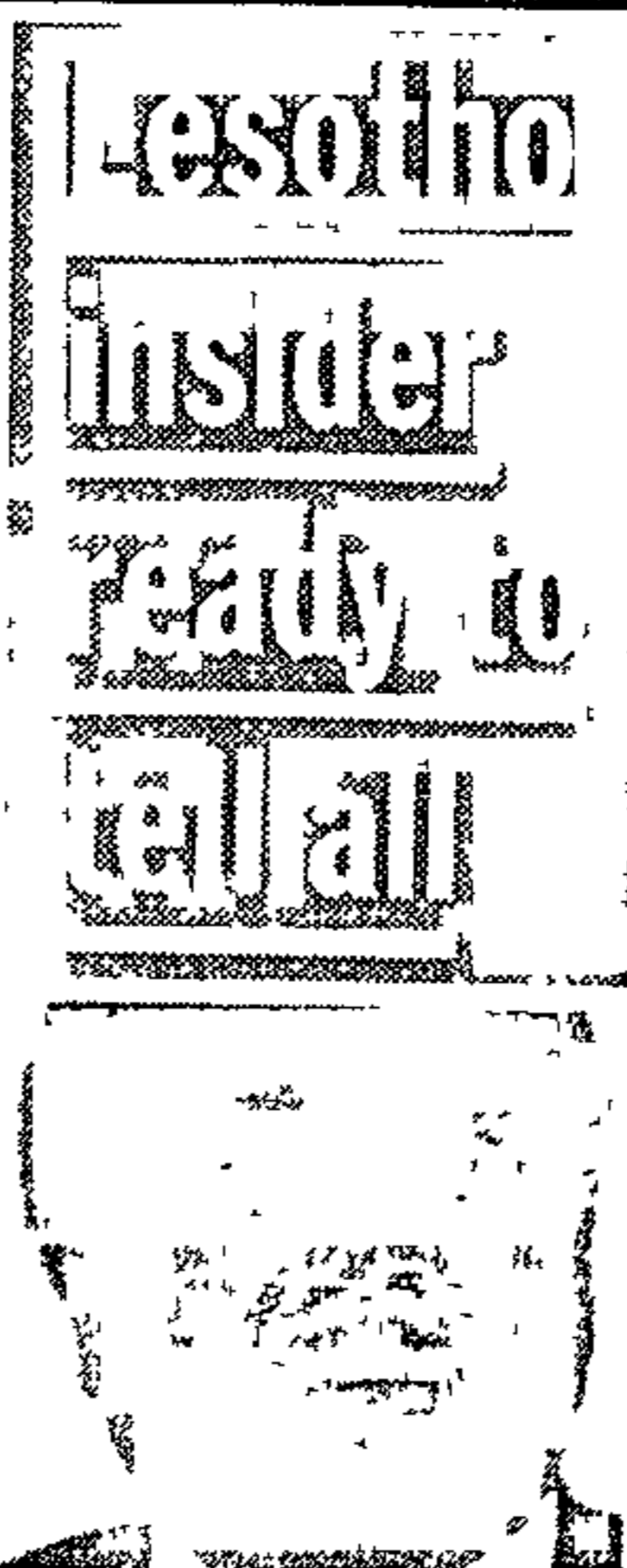
He had more access than his peers to sensitive information

Mr Molapo says he is ready to testify about

- Large scale embezzlement of public funds by a senior official through a company in which he held a major interest,
- Consignments of Mandrax pills which had made their way into Lesotho destined for high-ranking officials,
- Dealings between government officials and a defunct Italian company which led to large amounts of money being sent to a Swiss bank account while the company was being liquidated in Maseru,
- Deportations and disappearances at the whim of certain officials

Subversive

Reports about these dealings, and other Press articles agitating against official corruption, led to the deportation of the editor of a weekly newspaper, the Mirror, published in Maseru. The editor, Mr Johnny Maseko, was ac-



MAJARA MOLAPO Wants to spill beans

cused of engaging in subversive activity

Mr Molapo was "retired" in 1987. While he was contesting the action in court, the Government published, in an extraordinary gazette, an order "to validate the remov-

al from office of certain officers between 20 January 1986 and 31 May 1988"

The order made it lawful to remove a public officer from office "whether or not the procedure for such removal was complied with"

It also indemnified the Government against court action over such removals

"If any such proceedings have been instituted whether before or after the commencement of this order, they shall forthwith be discharged and made void the order said

Fears

The alleged malpractices have taken place over the past few years, but have only come to light now as growing disenchantment with Major-General Metsing Lekhanya's ruling junta manifests itself

Fear of "disappearing" or summary deportation has kept a number of people in the know tight-lipped

Says a prominent lawyer "There has been official corruption for years in Lesotho, but the clique mentality has always prevailed"

Mr Lekhanya, chairman of the six-man military council, has come under intense pressure since publication of allegations that he shot dead a student and asked a bodyguard to take responsibility

WEATHER AND TIDES

TRANSVAAL Pretoria, Witwatersrand, the eastern Highveld, western and south-western parts, central, north-western and northern areas Fine and mild Eastern Lowveld, Escarpment and Venda Fine and warm

FREE STATE: Fine and mild

NATAL INTERIOR. Fine and warm

CAPE North of the Orange River Fine and warm Peninsula, Boland and the Overberg Cloudy with showers Western

coastal belt Cloudy and mild, but cold in the south with showers Cape Infante to Plettenberg Bay Partly cloudy and cold with showers Plettenberg Bay to Port Alfred Partly cloudy and mild with light rain in the west Port Alfred to Port Edward Partly cloudy and cool

	High/Low	High/Low
Cape Town	0127/0753	1408/2008
Mossel Bay	0150/0821	1434/2028
Knysna	0207/0834	1449/2040
Port Elizabeth	0151/0822	1435/2029
East London	0203/0827	1442/2037
Durban	0201/0825	1440/2040
Walvis Bay	0134/0748	1407/2010

1987/1991

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Student death probe ⁽¹⁶⁷⁾

MASERU — A judicial inquiry into the death of a 20-year-old student, Mr George Ramone, who was allegedly shot last December by Lesotho's military leader, Major-General Metsing Lekhanya, will be held in Maseru soon

A statement issued yesterday by the office of the attorney-general of Lesotho said: "In the past few weeks the international media has made disturbing reports

^{Sowetan 17/7/89} concerning the death of Ramone.

"These reports have tended to divert attention from the fact that a fellow human being has died

"According to police investigations, the man

died from unnatural causes."

"The law of Lesotho demanded that where nobody is being charged with a crime concerning the death, a judicial inquiry should be undertaken." — Sapa

LEKHANYA CALLED TO TESTIFY

MASERU — Major-General Justin Lekhanya, head of the ruling military council in Lesotho, has been called to testify at an inquiry into the shooting to death of a college student, the Attorney-General said yesterday.

George Ramone (20), was shot to death on December 23 at the Lesotho Agricultural College, but despite pleas by his parents, no inquest or inquiry was held.

Attorney-General Kelebone Maope last Friday scheduled the inquiry for July 31, after South African, British and American newspapers reported that Lekhanya had admitted shooting the student in a memorandum to the six-man military council.

Originally, the reports said Lekhanya's bodyguard had told police he shot Mr Ramone. Lekhanya's memoran-

SAPA-AP

dum reportedly said the shooting occurred while he was patrolling the campus and stopped an attempted rape.

Maope said yesterday that the foreign newspaper reports about the contents of Lekhanya's memorandum and the statement to the police were accurate.

In addition to Lekhanya, the bodyguard, Sergeant Khothatso Mojakhomo of the Lesotho Defence Force, and the alleged intended victim, Puleng Makara, will also testify, the Attorney-General said.

There has been no explanation for the seven-month delay in holding an inquiry into Ramone's death. Maope said last week that Lesotho law requires an inquiry when someone is killed and no one is charged.

Lekhanya led a military coup in January 1986 to overthrow leftist

dictator, Leabua Jonathan, whose support of the African National Congress guerilla organisation had led to a South African blockade of the country.

The military council said it would restore the authority of King Moshoeshoe II, but has not done so although he has more power than under Jonathan. The military council has banned all political parties and refused demands to call elections.

(167) Final 21/7/89.



Lesotho's Lekhanya . . . facing a murder inquest

trol of the army, which originally wanted him in government as a unifying factor Others say wait and see whether the inquest is quashed — for if not, the whole can of worms will burst open. ■

ber 23 last year, Lekhanya, while strolling through the grounds of the Agricultural College in Maseru, happened upon an attempted rape. He evidently shot from the hip; and being the remarkable Sandhurst-trained marksman he is, felled the alleged rapist, student George Ramone (20). The trouble is that nobody who knew Ramone can credit the idea that he would have raped anyone. And everyone is asking what Lekhanya was doing there at that hour in the first place. Local rumour holds that the married military strongman was "on his own mission."

In any case, it seems Lekhanya (who came to power in the SA-backed coup that ousted Leabua Jonathan in January 1986), has yet to deny his involvement in the shooting. In fact, unconfirmed reports say he informed the military command about the incident three months ago.

SA, meanwhile, has said this is an internal matter and that it will not get involved — presumably until and unless its vital interests, like the Highlands Water Project, are threatened.

According to one line of speculation, the incident has merely served to bring to the surface underlying rivalry for power between the royal house and the military under Lekhanya. Two senior army men, the brothers Letsie, who are of royal blood, have evidently squared up behind the king, who is thought to be trying to drive a wedge in Lekhanya's support. In theory, the king has the power to dismiss the military leader. However, the army regime has been relatively popular compared to the royal faction, which, it seems, is distrusted for being avaricious and, on past record, none too keen on democratic government. This the people still expect in line with Lekhanya's promise when he seized power.

Some reckon Lekhanya will admit responsibility. If he survives the inquest, it is felt he will curtail the king's power; if he doesn't, then the king might take over effective con-

LESOTHO (167) Final

A shot in the dark

Lesotho's military leader, Major General Metsing Lekhanya — the prime suspect in the fatal shooting of a student last December — has agreed to appear before a judicial inquest called by King Moshoeshoe.

Attorney General Kelebone Maope is leading the inquiry into the killing, which has rocked the mountain kingdom and apparently ended contact between the king and the general, almost paralysing government.

Hearings will take place in Maseru between July 31 and August 4. Two key witnesses are due to give evidence. They are Lekhanya's bodyguard, Sergeant Khothatso Mojakhomo, who was with his boss on the night of the shooting (of the student and alleged rapist), and who has since retracted an admission of culpability, and the woman, Puleng Makara, who was allegedly the rapist's intended victim.

Sources in Lesotho say regular meetings between the military council and the king ceased three weeks ago when news of the killing first appeared in the international press. Lekhanya refused to resign over the incident.

The background to this murky episode goes like this: At about 10.15 pm on Decem-

Civil contracts on the decline

Star 21/7/89

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By Sven Lunsche

Civil contracts awarded to South African companies are showing a significant decline in the wake of the significant slowdown in economic growth

Only 70 new civil engineering contracts, valued at R160 million, were awarded during June, bringing the total for the second quarter of the year to a modest R510 million

The SA Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors (Safcec) in its monthly release points out that this was the lowest quarterly figure since the beginning of last year

Safcec says that the less buoyant outlook has already resulted in increased competition for available work with longer lists of tenderers and keener prices

Companies are, however, still reaping the benefits of last year's boom period and for 1989 some real annual growth in the volume of civil engineering construction is expected

Commenting on the growth prospects, Safcec says that the order book position at present is reasonably satisfactory although contractors expect the tempo of construction to slow down, later this year or early 1990

"Because of the state's tight capital expenditure budgets and also, for instance, the impact of the higher interest rates on private township development, which is already being felt, tender activity is expected to be lower in the second half," Safcec writes.

On the other hand the outlook for next year may improve

should the construction of major works for the Lesotho Highlands Water Project commence, the development of townships for lower income groups be stepped up or mines embark on programmes of expansion

Projects in Lesotho are already coming in by dribs and drabs — in June a R13 million contract was awarded for the construction of the engineering services at Katse Village, near the site of the future Katse dam

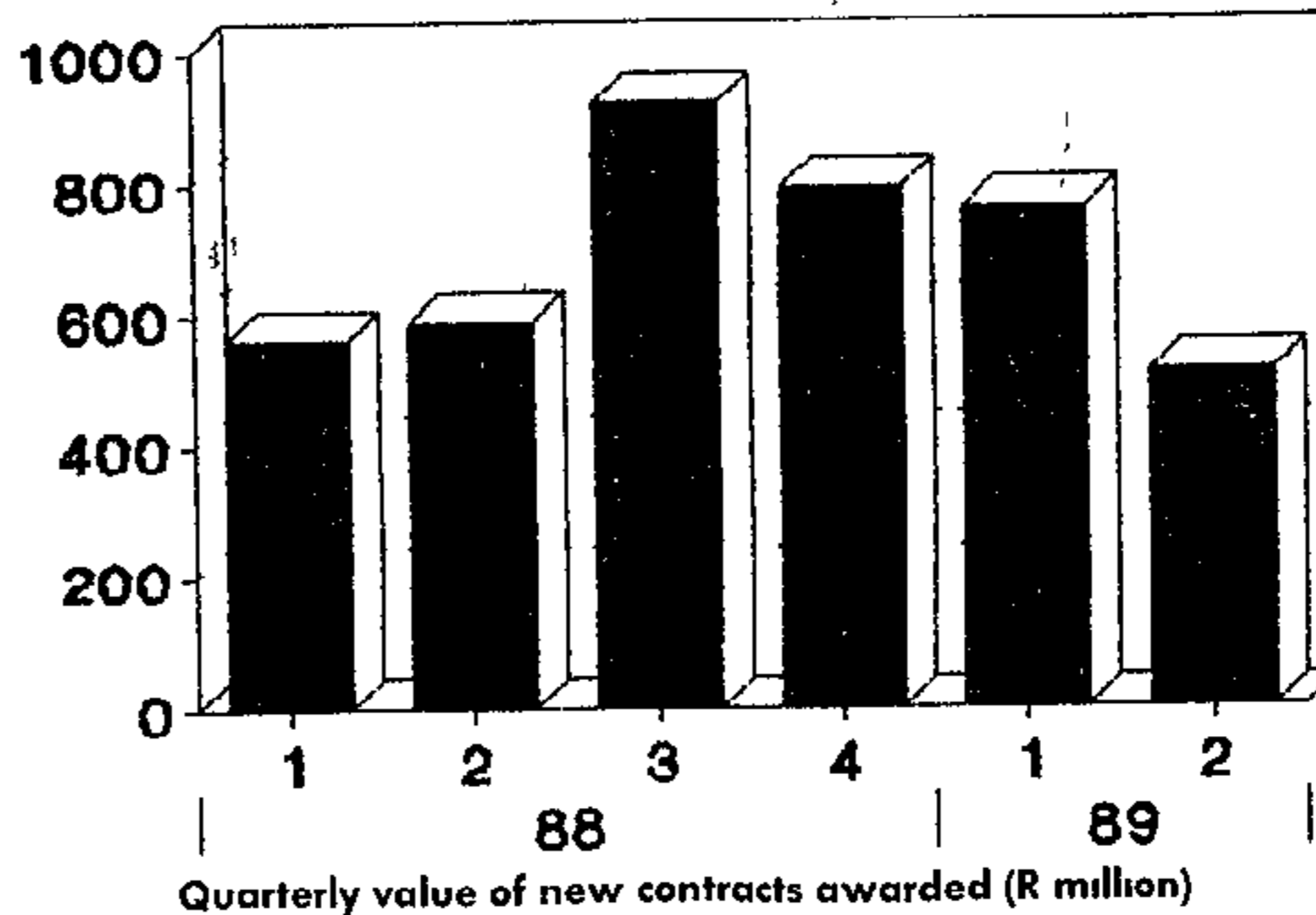
In the meantime civil engineering contracts at Southern Africa's second major project, the Mossel Bay gas venture, are in full swing — some R140 million of contracts at the Mossel Bay refinery were awarded in the first half this year, following last year's R40 million earthworks contract

However, South African companies lost out on a major R120 million contract in Botswana, when the construction of the railway line from Francistown to AECI's Sua Pan ash deposits was handed to Italian contractors CMC

Despite the slowdown in the June quarter, the industry certainly had a buoyant 12 months

According to Safcec, contracts worth R2,96 billion were awarded from July 1988 to June this year, compared with R2,08 billion during the previous 12 months, an improvement of some 42 percent in nominal terms and 25 percent in real terms

Total employment in the industry has recovered from about 95 000 at the beginning of 1988 to some 95 000 at present.



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Cape Times, Tuesday, August 1, 1989 3

Officer asked to recuse himself

MASERU — In a surprise move in the Magistrate's Court here yesterday, the officer presiding at the opening of the inquest into the death of a 20-year-old student was asked to recuse himself

Mr Khalaki Sello, an attorney representing the family of the dead student, Mr George Ramone, asked the presiding officer, Mr Letsela Mapetla, to recuse himself

Mr Sello said he had been instructed by his clients to ask Mr Mapetla to recuse himself because they had "a reasonable and mortal fear" that if he continued to preside over the inquest proceedings "justice will not be seen to be done"

Lesotho's military ruler, Major-General Metsing Lekhanya, was allegedly involved in the mysterious shooting incident in which Mr Ramone died

The director of public prosecutions, Mr Siphon Mdluli, said the issue before the inquest was very sensitive and serious allegations involving the head of the Lesotho government had been made in the media on the African continent, in the United Kingdom and in other countries — Sapa

CMT- Tuit 2/8/89

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Lekhyanya case: Recusal refused

MASERU. — An application for the recusal of the presiding magistrate at the inquest into the death of a 20-year-old student who died in a shooting incident involving Lesotho's military ruler, Major-General Metsing Lekhyanya, was refused yesterday afternoon.

The chief magistrate of Maseru, Mr Letsela Mapetla, has been presiding over the inquest since it opened on Monday. He was asked by Mr Khalaki Sello, counsel for the family of the dead student, Mr George Ramone, to recuse himself on the grounds that "justice would not be seen to be done", as the general was, in effect, being responsible for Lesotho's pub-

lic service, the presiding magistrate's employer.

Earlier there had been a sharp exchange between Mr Sello and the invited counsel for General Lekhyanya, Pretoria advocate Mr Hendricus Loubser.

Mr Loubser very strongly criticised Mr Sello for making political statements about his client and added that Mr Sello was wasting the time of the court.

Mr Sello replied "We are going into the boxing ring with the major general wearing a sacred mantle of the head of his Majesty's government."

The hearing is proceeding — Sapa

lack of space
y's library.
complained

demands are met," the
students warned in a
statement.

Lekhanya

asked ¹⁶⁷

to quit ^{2/5/87}

MASERU - Counsels for Lesotho military ruler, Major-General Metsing Lekhanya and the family of a 20-year-old student who died in a shooting incident involving the general, exchanged sharp words at the inquest hearing yesterday.

The inquest into the death of Mr George Ramone, who was shot dead at the Lesotho Agriculture College in December last year, opened on Monday in the Maseru Magistrate's Court.

Counsel for the family of the student, Mr Khalaki Sello, invited counsel for Lekhanya, Pretoria advocate Mr Hendricus Loubser, to ask the general to resign in order that he may be cross-examined over his testimony before the inquest.

Loubser very strongly criticised Sello for making political statements about his client and added that Sello was wasting the time of the court. - Sapa.

Bitter exchanges at shooting probe

Argus Africa News Service ARGUS 2/8/87 (167)
MASERU — An inquest into the death of a 20-year-old student who died in a shooting incident involving Lesotho's military ruler, Major-General Metsing Lekhanya, has been postponed to August 30

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The decision, at the request of Mr Khalaki Sello, counsel for the family of the deceased, was announced by chief magistrate, Mr Letsela Mapetla

Yesterday's proceedings were marked by a bitter exchange of words between Mr Sello and counsel for Lesotho's military ruler, Mr Hendricus Loubser, after Mr Sello invited Mr Loubser to ask the general to resign so he may be cross-examined over his testimony.

Mr Loubser said Mr Sello harboured bitterness over his dismissal as minister in the Lesotho government last year, to which Mr Sello retorted "I served in the government because I obeyed the command of my king, the head of state, to serve in that capacity"

The inquest into the death of Mr George Ramone, who was shot at the Lesotho Agriculture College in December last year, opened on Monday in the Maseru Magistrate's Court

Chief magistrate of Maseru Mr Letsela Matela had earlier refused an application for his recusal by Mr Sello on the grounds that justice would not be seen to be done if he presided because he was a civil servant

(167)

wwwail
4-10/8/89.

Lesotho family calls for inquest magistrate to step down

By MZIMKULU MALUNGA

THE start of inquest into the death of Lesotho student George Ramone — allegedly shot dead by military strongman, Major-General Justin Lekhanya — was marked this week by heated demands for the withdrawal of the inquest magistrate.

The inquest was postponed to August 30 following an application by Ramone's family, who argued that insufficient time had been given to prepare for the hearing.

According to the Ramone family lawyer, Khalaki Sello, the family feared that as Lekhanya would be testifying before "his employee", magistrate Letsela Mapetla, there might not be a fair hearing.

He said the family had asked for a retired magistrate to handle the inquest, but the application was dismissed by the court.

Sello also invited the counsel for Lekhanya, Pretoria-based advocate Hendricus Loubscher, to ask his client to resign to facilitate cross-examination.

Loubscher dismissed Sello's argument as a political statement, adding that he was wasting the court's time.

Family lawyers are still trying to obtain statements made by witnesses to the police on the killing of 20-year-old Ramone, a third-year student at the Lesotho Agricultural College.

Sello said the authorities had refused to release the statements.

But a representative of the Law Office said there had been no final decision concerning the issue of statements. "We merely said we were still considering whether we were the correct authority to issue the statements," a spokesman said.

According to the representative, it was feared that the statements could fall into the hands of the press before the matter reached court.

Sabta links ¹⁶⁷ up with Lesotho Taxi *Sowetan 8/8/89* Association

By JOSHUA RABOROKO

THE Southern Africa Black Taxi Association (Sabta) has forged links with the Lesotho Taxi Association in an attempt to bring black entrepreneurs in the Southern Africa region together.

Swaziland and Namibia have already joined and talks are underway to establish links with the taxi industry in Mozambique

Speaking after talks between the two associations, Sabta's president Mr James Ngcoya, said LTA joined them because they wanted to become part of South Africa's mainstream economy.

He said, "We have the capacity and capability to extend our services beyond the borders of South Africa.

"We look forward to assisting the LTA."

Happy

The Lesotho delegation was led by LTA president, Mr Sechaba Mabula, who said there was a great need for development of the taxi industry.

His association was happy to have joined forces with Sabta.

The delegation included a representative of the Lesotho National Development Corporation which supported the LTA's initiatives to improve the passenger service in the mountain kingdom.

The joining of LTA brings the number of Sabta affiliates to 10.

Now Lesotho's Lekhanya meets De Klerk

LESOTHO's ruling Military Council chairman Major General Metsing Lekhanya is to meet acting President F W de Klerk in Pretoria today

The meeting coincides with the start of the inquest in Maseru into the death of a student, in which Lekhanya is allegedly involved

A Foreign Affairs spokesman said yesterday Lekhanya had requested a meeting with De Klerk "sometime before the elections" It was only a courtesy call which was scheduled to last between 10 and 15 minutes, he said.

Reports of Lekhanya's alleged involvement in the death of 20-year-old George

30/8/89
MANDY JEAN WOODS (167)

Ramone first surfaced in the British newspaper, The Observer, in a report by SA journalist Allister Sparks

The report said Lekhanya admitted to members of the Military Council in a memorandum that he shot Ramone It said a bodyguard later made a false statement claiming responsibility

Ramone had allegedly tried to rape a woman on the Lesotho Agricultural College campus on December 23 Two men appeared when she called for help

Lekhanya allegedly admitted he was one of the two men, and that he shot Ramone when he attempted to flee

Water scheme: SA Lesotho agree

Own Correspondent

PRETORIA. — The South African and Lesotho governments have reached agreement on the development of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project.

This was announced here yesterday after a meeting between SA Foreign Minister Mr Pik Botha and Lesotho's ruling military council chairman Major General Metsing Lakhanya.

At a conference afterwards Mr Botha said there was now no talk of delay in carrying out the scheme, which was strongly in the interests of both countries. SA would benefit with a reinforced water supply, and Lesotho financially from the water payments.

Mr Botha said acting State President

Mr F W de Klerk's recent meeting with Southern African leaders and certain common policy issues involving the two countries were reviewed.

"We looked at the economic situation in the region and the need for all countries to go forward in the interests of economic development and growth," Mr Botha said.

Gen Lakhanya said only good could come from closer co-operation in Southern Africa. The water scheme was an example of this.

Asked when civil government would be restored in Lesotho, he said his government was in the process of establishing ways and means to bring this about. "We are working on a time schedule on the basis of what is best for Lesotho."

General 'fired fatal shot'

CPA-1141 3/18/89 Own Correspondent 167

MASERU — Bullets fired by Lesotho military leader Major General Metsing Lekhanya killed 20-year-old student Mr George Ramone, according to evidence at Mr Ramone's inquest which began yesterday

The CID investigating officer, Major D Skoza, told a packed courtroom he had received a verbal report of the incident from a Major Malephane of the Central Charge Office on December 24 last year, the morning after the incident

According to Major Malephane, General Lekhanya's bodyguard, Sgt Khothatso Mojokhomo, brought a woman and the body of an unknown male into the station on the evening of December 23

Sgt Mojokhomo said he had been on patrol on the campus of the Lesotho Agricultural College with General Lekhanya when they heard a woman screaming

Ruler tells court he killed student

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MASERU - Lesotho's military ruler, Major-General Metsing Lekhanya, has admitted firing the shot that killed a young agricultural student, an inquest into the youth's death heard yesterday.

The stunning new development into the death of 20-year-old George Ramone took lawyers acting on behalf of the Ramone family completely by surprise, and left a packed gallery agasp.

The bombshell news was casually dropped by counsel acting for Lekhanya, Mr H Loubischer, when cross-examining the police officer in charge of investigating the death. Loubischer told the in-

SOWETAN Africa News Service

quiry that Lekhanya had made "a full statement" admitting the killing to Lesotho's Commissioner of Police on December 24 last year - the day after the fatal shooting.

Up until yesterday apparently very few people had known of the general's admission. Confusion over who

had killed Ramone had been created by contradictory oral and written statements given by the general's bodyguard, Sergeant Khothaso Mojakhomo, who first implicated the general but later stated he had fired the fatal shot.

Woman

The police officer investigating the case, Major D Skoza, had earlier told the inquiry that according to a report made by Mojakhomo, he and the major-general had come across Ramone trying to rape a woman in the grounds of the Maseru

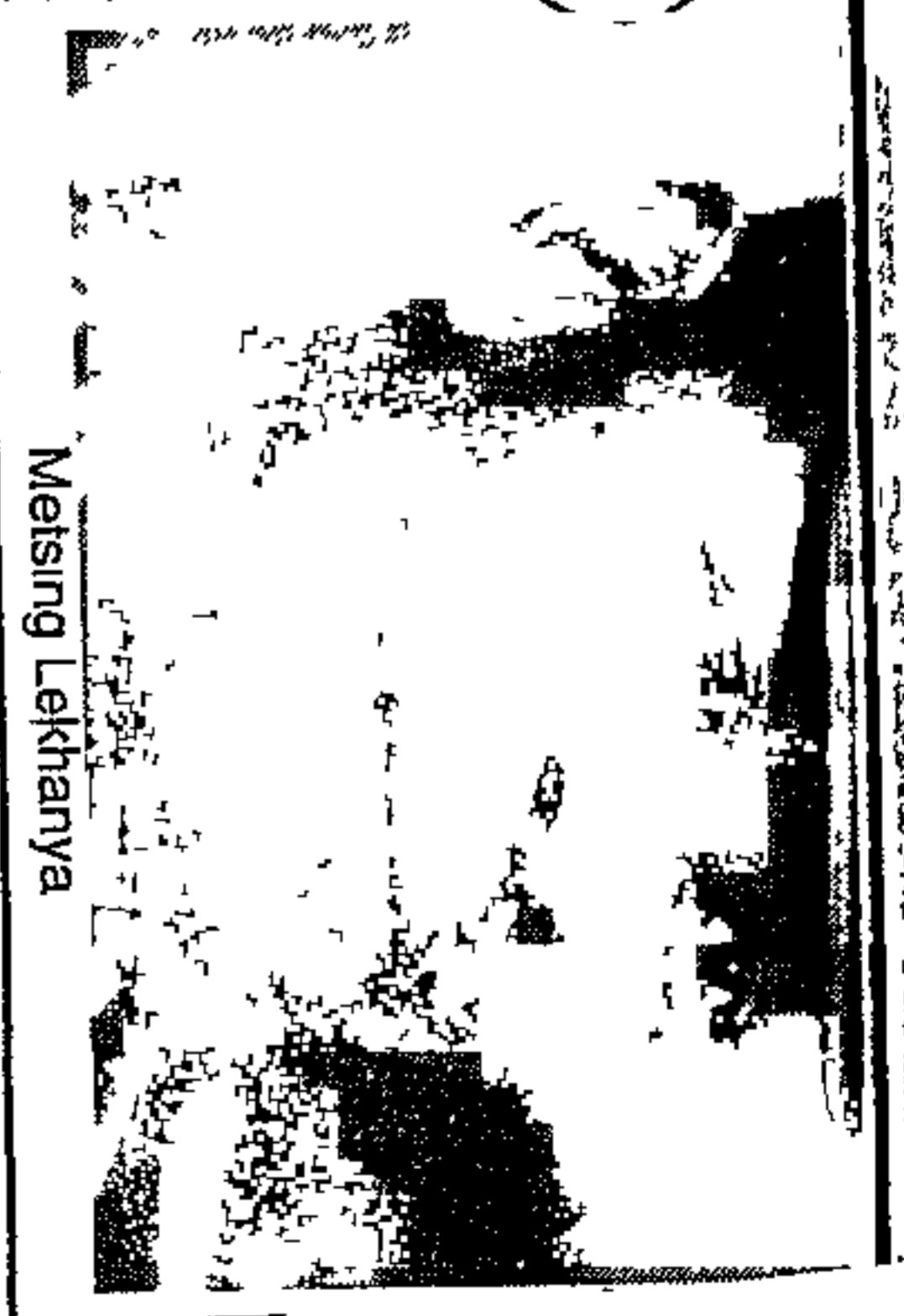
Agricultural College

They had intervened and while he had assisted the woman, Miss Puleng Makara, a shot fired by the general at the fleeing Ramone had "got him".

In his second statement, Mojakhomo said he alone had been "on patrol" at the Maseru Agricultural College when he had come across Ramone trying to rape Miss Makara.

He had interceded and shot Ramone while he was trying to flee to avoid arrest.

The hearing continues and Lekhanya is expected to give evidence today.



Metsing Lekhanya

4 in court for theft of yacht

Court Reporter

FOUR national servicemen appeared in Wynberg Regional Court yesterday in connection with the alleged theft of a yacht from False Bay Yacht Club in July

Two of the men will be asked to plead to charges of stealing the yacht New Morning, stealing property off a yacht in Hout Bay and stealing a motor vehicle.

The hearing was postponed until September 13.

Lekhanya denies he is trying to avoid inquest

CAT 7mb 1/9/87 167

MASERU — The chairman of the Military Council in Lesotho, Major-General Metsing Lekhanya, has denied reports that he deliberately visited South Africa on Wednesday to avoid the start of a judicial inquiry into the death of a student

He is alleged to have been involved in the incident. In a statement released yesterday morning, General Lekhanya said he undertook the visit to Pretoria at the invitation of the SA government as the two countries had matters of the highest importance to discuss

He said he was ready to testify, should he be summoned by the court, as he did not consider himself above the law

General Lekhanya also stressed that he would not resign because of media speculation about his conduct — Sapa

The general, the housemaid, a shooting... and a youth's death

MASERU. Lesotho's military ruler, Major-General Justin Lekhanya, admits he shot dead a student he believed was about to rape or kill a woman, his lawyer has told an inquest.

It was the first time the military strongman had admitted responsibility for the death of George Ramone, 20, in a case that has caused waves here and brought calls for General Lekhanya's resignation.

His lawyer, South African advocate Mr H R Laubscher, told the inquest that General Lekhanya had surprised Mr Ramone allegedly attempting to rape a woman and had fired two warning shots before gunning him down.

General Lekhanya was due to testify yesterday, but Lesotho's Director of Public Prosecutions, Mr Sipho Mdhluli, said this had not proved possible.

"We would have wanted to put him in the (witness) box today but time was not on our side," he said.

Mr Laubscher said General Lekhanya was still prepared to testify at the inquest, set up by Lesotho's ruling military council after public pressure to explain his role in the shooting.

A date for his appearance would be set later.

Mr Laubscher said General Lekhanya and a bodyguard were at Lesotho's agricultural college on the night of December 23 when they heard a woman screaming.

Rescue

"It appeared to him that the woman he heard was in great danger and in fear of her life. He saw a man on top of a woman who was screaming and shouting for help," the lawyer said.

The woman, Puleng Makara, testified on Thursday that Mr Ramone tried to rape her and two men who she did not know came to her rescue.

According to General Lekhanya's lawyer, Mr. Ramone fled when the general and his bodyguard appeared. General Lekhanya chased him for a short distance, but it became clear to him that at his age he was not going to catch the young man.

"He shouted at him to stop, his intention being to arrest him, and fired two shots in the air to no effect."

General Lekhanya then aimed at Mr Ramone and fired the fatal shot.

Lawyers for the Ramone family have suggested the student was killed because he was involved in a love triangle. They also say Lesotho's military council tried to cover up for General Lekhanya.

Suspicious were raised when the general's bodyguard, Sergeant Khothatso Mojakhomo, first told police that his boss had pulled the trigger, then said that he himself had fired the bullet.

Miss Makara, an unmarried housemaid with four children, said she was drunk on the night of the killing. But she denied a suggestion from a lawyer for the Ramones that she was a woman of loose morals. — Sapa-Reuter

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Basotho miners collect R330-m

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MASERU — The Lesotho Minister of Planning, Economic and Manpower Development, Dr Michael Sefadi, says Basotho mine workers on the South African mines brought home a total of about R330 million a year *Star 7/9/89*

Opening a three-day conference with representatives of the International Donor Community in Maseru on Lesotho's needs for agricultural and rural development, the minister said this money could contribute more to Lesotho's development if there were suitable investment possibilities available in local areas

Lesotho realised that, to a large extent, these remittances enabled so many of the miners to remain at home in the rural areas — Sapa

Star 8/9/84 117
**SA donation to
Bank of Lesotho**

MASERU — South Africa yesterday donated R379 760 to Lesotho towards the completion of the headquarters of the new Central Bank of Lesotho.

The South African trade representative in Maseru, Mr G Geldenhuys, handed the cheque to Lesotho's Finance Minister, Mr E Sekhonyana — Sapa

Doubts about Lesotho shooting

law office confirmed an inquest into the deaths of former Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Theko Sixishe, and former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Montsi Makhele, will be held later this year.

The bodies of Sixishe, Makhele and their wives were found at *Khalong La Baroa*, known as Bushman Pass, in November 1986.

The representative declined to comment when asked whether the in-

● From PAGE 19

quests were being conducted because of pressure from certain quarters.

Sources within the government suggest Lekhanya himself wants the inquests to be held as soon as possible

It is believed some senior government officials might have had something to do with the deaths of the two former ministers.

(167) W. M. M.
8-14/9/89

... the potentially violent ... because the ... Bhaeat is wrong because the ... holiday office

Doubts we'll ever know about Lesotho shooting

THE Lesotho inquest into the death of a 20-year-old student reaches its climax on Thursday when the chairman of the ruling military council, Major General Metsing Lekhanya, testifies, but there are doubts whether the real story about what happened on the night of December 23 last year will be revealed.

Puleng Makara, the key witness at the inquest into the mysterious killing of 20-year-old student George Ramone at the Lesotho Agricultural College last year, has denied allegations that she had had a love affair with Lekhanya.

She even denied any knowledge of the general, but some of Lekhanya's former colleagues alleged his relationship with the woman stretches as far back as 1979

By MZIMKULU MALUNGA

They alleged that on the day he met the woman — at a hotel in one of the country's southern districts where Makara was working — he gave her R7

The police, however, have admitted during cross-examination by the Ramone's family lawyer, David Soggot, SC, that an attempt was made by certain police officers to cover up the incident.

Most political and legal analysts suggested Makara's denial that she knew neither Ramone nor Lekhanya could be part of the whole cover up

Next week Lekhanya enters the witness box having already admitted, through his Pretoria-based advocate

Hendricus Laubscher, to have killed Ramone

Laubscher said his client would deny he ordered a sergeant who was with him at the time to tell the police he (the sergeant) was the one who shot the student

He said the general told him that a major, whose identity Laubscher did not disclose, reported the shooting to the commissioner of police, Major General James Dingizwayo, the following morning.

Khothatso Mojakhomo, the sergeant in question, admitted during cross-examination he made conflicting statements because he wanted to keep Lekhanya's name out of the matter. Asked why he did that, Mojakhomo replied he did it "out of respect" for Lekhanya

Most people who attended the hearing doubted if there was any incident of rape or attempted rape on the day Ramone was shot, having listened to Makara's evidence

Makara earlier said the rape took place in the bush within the college premises. Later she said it happened next to a road at the college

When cross-examined she said Ramone, whom she said she did not know, followed her out of a shebeen then attempted to rape her. Makara told the court she then ran into the bush

When questioned why she ran into the bush, Makara said she had no reason for doing so.

● A representative of the country's

● To PAGE 22

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All eyes on strongman 167

LESOTHO'S attention will be focused on the Maseru Magistrate's Court for the next four days when Lesotho's military ruler, Major-General Metsing Lekhanya is expected to explain his role in the killing of 20-year-old George Ramone on December 23 last year.

An inquest into the death of the youth resumes today and Lekhanya is expected to testify in one of

Sowetan 14/9/89
the hearings

Two weeks ago counsel representing Lekhanya said the general admitted killing Mi Ramone by shooting him in the grounds of the Maseru Agricultural College.

He had admitted this in a full oral statement to Lesotho's commissioner of police the day after the shooting.

It has been alleged that Ramone was trying to rape Miss Pule Makata when Lekhanya and his bodyguard intervened. Ramone was shot while trying to escape, it is claimed.

Previously the inquest had heard allegations that Lekhanya may have been Makara's lover and that that he may have killed Ramone in a fight over her.

Lekhanya due to explain his role in killing

Star 14/9/87
The Star's Africa News Service

MASERU — Lesotho's attention will be focused on the Maseru Magistrate's Court for the next four days when the kingdom's military ruler, Major-General Metsing Lekhanya, is expected to explain his role in the killing of 20-year-old Mr George Ramone on December 23 last year

An inquest into the man's death resumes today and General Lekhanya is

expected to testify in one of the hearings

(167)
Two weeks ago counsel representing General Lekhanya said the general had admitted killing Mr Ramone by shooting him in the grounds of the Maseru Agricultural College

It has been alleged Mr Ramone was trying to rape Miss Puleng Makara when General Lekhanya and his bodyguard intervened

The respected one shot somebody ¹⁶⁷ bodyguard

By Joao Santa Rita, The Star's
Africa News Service

MASERU — "The respected one has shot somebody." This is what the bodyguard of Lesotho's military ruler, Major-General Meising Lekhanya, told a CID detective the night a 20-year-old student was shot dead in Maseru last year.

Detective J R Ramakedane told an inquest into the fatal shooting in December last year of Mr George Ramone, that the bodyguard had later explained that "the respected one" was General Lekhanya.

The inquest was transferred from the magistrate's court to a much larger room in the Supreme Court.

Two weeks ago, counsel for General Lekhanya said he had admitted to the killing in

a full statement made to the Commissioner of Police the day after the shooting.

It has been alleged that Mr Ramone, a student at the agricultural college, had tried to rape Miss Puleng Makara on December 23 last year. General Lekhanya and his bodyguard intervened and Mr Ramone was killed.

A man who sold alcohol from his home on the campus, Mr K Ranthamane, told the inquest that on the day of the shooting Mr Ramone and Miss Makara had been drinking at his home.

There have been allegations that General Lekhanya may have been Miss Makara's lover.

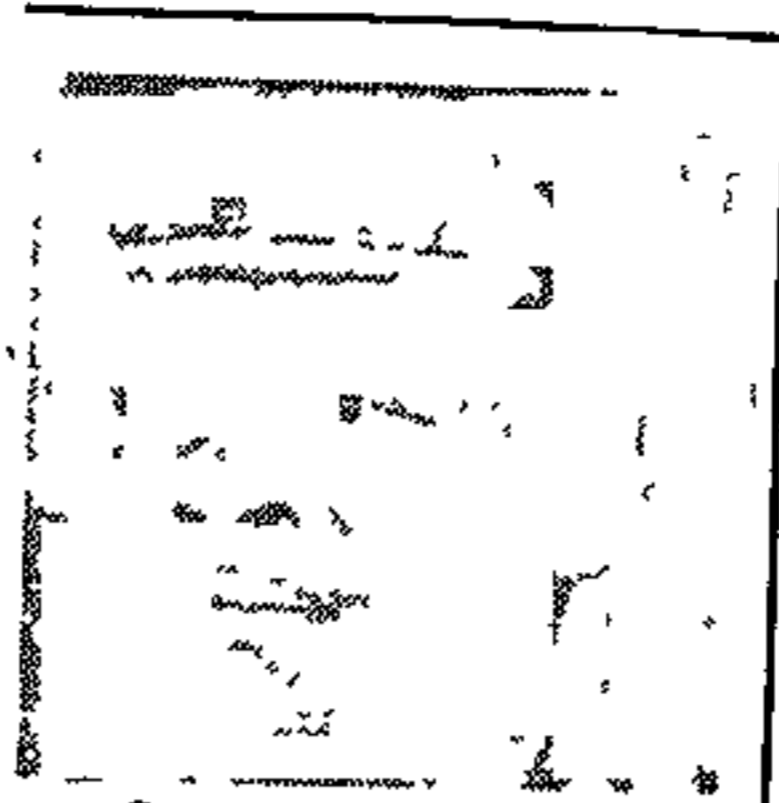
Two weeks ago, the officer investigating the case, Major D Skoza, accepted that

while the general's bodyguard had initially stated that the general had shot Mr Ramone, he had later changed his statement admitting responsibility for the killing. General Lekhanya is expected to give evidence today.

● The South African press came under attack at the start of yesterday's proceedings when the Director of Public Prosecution, Mr Siphon Mdiluli, said "certain newspapers" had printed stories that "attempt to suggest that this (inquest) is a farce."

He said the *Weekly Mail* had also printed a story from which "we can infer that the writer is trying to influence this court."

He asked the magistrate, Mr Letsela Mapelela, to ask the South African reporters present to "stick to the facts."



General Metsing
Lekhanya

Quizzed for six ¹⁶⁷ hours ^{Sowetan 18/9/89}

Sowetan Africa News
Service

MASERU - An in-
quest into the death of a
20-year-old student shot
dead by Lesotho's milit-
ary ruler General Metsing
Lekhanya continues today
in Maseru

On Friday and Satui-
day Lekhanya spent about
six hours in the witness
box explaining the events
that led him to shoot Mr
George Ramone on the
night of December 23 last
year

Star 18/9/89.

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Court hears of visit to 'sister-in-law'

Keep woman's name out, says Lekhanya

The Star's Africa News Service
MASERU — Mystery surrounds the identity of a woman whom Lesotho's military ruler General Metsing Lekhanya went to see shortly before he shot dead a 20-year-old student in December last year

Dressed in a camouflage jacket and olive green pants, General Lekhanya spent more than six hours in the witness box on Friday and Saturday explaining the events that led to his shooting dead Mr George Ramone on the night of December 23

General Lekhanya, accompanied by several bodyguards, told the inquest on Mr Ramone he had gone to the agricultural college to look for a veterinarian for his cattle and had then gone to his sister-in-law's house to inquire where he could find the vet

Question disallowed

When asked her name by counsel for Mr Ramone's family, Mr David Soggot, he refused to divulge it because he did not want her to be associated with the matter

The magistrate disallowed the question, saying it had no relevance to the inquest

When asked how the disclosure of his "sister-in-law's" name could be an embarrassment, General Lekhanya replied that "there has been a lot of mud-slinging"

"I wouldn't like to have anyone else involved"

He said that when he arrived at his sister-in-law's house he heard a woman screaming. He had gone to the place from where the screaming was coming and had found a man on top of a woman. The man had tried to run away and he had shot him dead after firing two warning shots

with a Uzi machine pistol which fired 9 mm bullets

The man was Mr George Ramone and the woman was Miss Puleng Makara. Gen Lekhanya denied suggestions he knew Miss Makara or that he had a relationship with her

He could not explain why his driver/bodyguard, Sergeant Mojakhomo, had said in an initial affidavit that he and not the general had killed Mr Ramone, and he denied ordering him to make a false statement

Sergeant Majokhomo could have omitted his name out of loyalty, General Lekhanya said

Miss Makara could have left General Lekhanya's name out of her original statement on the night of the shooting because "she must have been in a state of shock"

A Sergeant Mothibeli, to whom the general's bodyguard had told the full story on the night of the shooting, had also kept the general's name out of his statement, Mr Soggot said

"One after another senior officers have obstructed the course of justice or committed perjury," Mr Soggot said

General Lekhanya insisted in his testimony he had acted correctly. He had personally informed the commissioner of police of the killing the following day and had also informed the military council. On the night of the shooting he had personally told his bodyguard to go to the police charge office and he had not told anybody to hide his involvement

Earlier he agreed that an affidavit had been taken from him only after reports about the killing had appeared in the press, seven months after the killing

No response on To'burg schools

Magistrate orders Minister to court

8/19/89

By Joao Santa Rita,
The Star's Africa News Service

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MASERU — A Lesotho magistrate has ordered the country's Foreign Minister and the Commissioner of Police to appear before him to explain events connected with the killing of a 20-year-old student shot dead by the country's military ruler, General Metsing Lekhanya, last December.

The Lesotho Foreign Minister, Colonel Thaabe Letsie, is also a member of the country's ruling military council.

General Lekhanya told the inquiry that he had told the Commissioner of Police and the military council of the killing the day after it had occurred.

Mr K Sello, counsel for the family of the dead student, Mr George Ramone, said the appearance of the two men was essential to dispel the impression that the government had been involved in a cover-up of the killing.

His request was opposed by counsel for General Lekhanya, who said the two men's testimony would be irrelevant to the inquiry on the causes of Mr Ramone's death.

NO SUPPRESSION

The director of public prosecution, Mr Siphon Mdluli, said there could be no allegations of a cover-up as General Lekhanya had admitted killing Mr Ramone.

Magistrate Mr Letsela Mapetla ordered that the two men be subpoenaed as the inquest could not be seen to be suppressing evidence.

The magistrate had earlier ordered the superintendent of Maseru Hospital to produce the record book stating the hours in which bodies were admitted to the mortuary.

The superintendent said he had not brought the book to court because "the book is the responsibility of the police".

Mr Sello argued that the book would show that the body of Mr Ramone entered the mortuary after 2 am on December 24, about four hours later than when General Lekhanya said the shooting had taken place.

The magistrate also ruled that General Lekhanya's bodyguard, Sergeant K Mojakhomo, be allowed to continue to be examined on questions not related to the actual facts of the shooting incident.

The inquest continues on Thursday and Friday.

General admits firing fatal shot

star 29/89
MASERU — Lesotho's military ruler Major-General Justin Lekhanya admits he shot dead a student he believed was about to rape or kill a woman, his lawyer told an inquest yesterday.

It was the first time the military strongman had admitted responsibility for the death of George Ramone (20) in a case that has gripped the mountain kingdom and brought calls for General Lekhanya's resignation.

His lawyer, South African advocate H R Laubscher, told the inquest General Lekhanya had surprised Mr Ramone attempting to rape a woman and had fired two warning shots before gunning him down.

General Lekhanya had been due to testify yesterday, but Lesotho's Director of Public Prosecutions, Mr Sipho Mdhuli, said this had not proved possible because "time was not on our side"

Mr Laubscher said General Lekhanya was still prepared to testify at the inquest, set up by Lesotho's ruling military council after public pressure to explain his role in the shooting

He said the general and one of his bodyguards were at Lesotho's agricultural college on the night of December 23 when they heard a woman screaming.

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"It appeared to him that the woman he heard was in great danger and in fear of her life. He saw a man on top of a woman who was screaming and shouting for help," the lawyer said.

The woman, Puleng Makara, testified on Thursday that Mr Ramone had tried to rape her and two men whom she did not know came to her rescue.

According to General Lekhanya's lawyer, Mr Ramone fled when the general and his bodyguard appeared. General Lekhanya chased him until "it became clear to the major-general that at his age, he was not going to catch up with the young man"

"He shouted at him to stop, his intention being to arrest him, and fired two shots in the air to no effect"

General Lekhanya then aimed at Mr Ramone and fired the fatal shot.

Lawyers for the Ramone family have suggested the student was killed because he was involved in a love triangle. They also say Lesotho's military council tried to cover up for General Lekhanya.

General Lekhanya's bodyguard, Sergeant Khothatso Mojakhomo, first told police that the general had pulled the trigger, then said that he himself had fired — Sapa-Reuter

22/8/89

167 Enail

LESOTHO

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Lekhanya in the box

Having admitted that he did fire the shot that killed a 20-year-old student in the grounds of the Agricultural College in Maseru last December 23, Lesotho's military ruler, Major General Metsing Lekhanya, spent many hours last Friday and Saturday fielding questions about the circumstances of the shooting

Dressed in army fatigues, Lekhanya was appearing before the judicial inquest called by King Moshoeshoe in an inquiry which has rocked Lesotho, apparently frozen relations between the king and the general and strained the administration of the country (*Current Affairs* July 21)

About 200 people packed the High Court in Maseru to hear the country's leader explain how he shot George Ramone dead with a 9 mm Uzi machine pistol

Lekhanya (51) was accompanied by armed bodyguards in military uniform. He told the inquest he had gone into the grounds of the college on the night of the shooting in search of a vet for his cattle. He said he was at the door of his sister-in-law's house when he heard a woman screaming, but he refused to disclose the name of this relative as he did not want her brought into the matter. The presiding magistrate said the matter had no relevance

"I thought my duty as a citizen was to go and see what was going on," Lekhanya explained, adding that he saw a man on top of a woman, struggling with her

The general said the man then tried to run away and he fired two shots in the air and one "in the general direction" of the man, who was hit

Lekhanya then ordered his driver-bodyguard to take the woman and the man to the CID charge office. The man had blood on his clothes and "was lying very still"

Questioned by the director of public prosecution, Siphon Mdluli, Lekhanya denied he knew the woman (Puleng Makara) or had any relationship with her. He denied that he had ordered his bodyguard (who originally claimed responsibility for the shooting) and the woman (who did not even mention Lekhanya's name in her first statement) to give different accounts of what happened to the police

"The next morning I myself reported to the police," he said

The general denied that he had been callous in not giving the wounded man first aid and in ordering his bodyguard to take Ramone to the charge office despite the nature of his wound

"Under the circumstances, I reacted as compassionately as possible," he said. He regarded as "malicious" newspaper reports that there had been an attempt to cover up the killing

An affidavit on how Lekhanya killed Ramone was taken only seven months after the killing, following press reports on the issue, the inquest was told

Under cross-examination by Johannesburg advocate David Soggot, for Ramone's family, the general admitted he had not talked about the killing to anyone else because that was his nature. But he insisted he had followed correct procedures by telling his bodyguard to report to the charge office; by reporting to the police the following day, and by informing the Military Council of the killing

However, he said the Attorney-General's office had only informed him that an affidavit would be necessary after reports had appeared in the newspapers

Lekhanya said he had signed an affidavit in July this year after consulting lawyers. Asked if he had consulted lawyers because he thought he could be in trouble, the general answered "no"

Dr Nkuke Musoke, who carried out the post mortem on Ramone, told the inquest earlier that the deceased had been shot at the base of the skull, through his mouth. His impression was that the shot had been fired at close range, but the doctor admitted that he had little experience in dealing with post mortems

During the inquest, Soggot said that senior officers had obstructed the course of justice or committed perjury

Top Lesotho men testify at inquiry

By Ken Vernon,
The Star's Africa News Service

MASERU — Two of the most powerful men in Lesotho yesterday appeared before a Maseru magistrate to testify at an inquiry into the death of a young student killed by Lesotho's military ruler, Major-General Metsing Lekhanya

Their appearance is a sequel to the death of Mr George Ramone (20), an agricultural student, shot by General Lekhanya while allegedly trying to rape a woman in the grounds of the agricultural college on December 23 last year

It has been alleged General Lekhanya may have killed the youth out of jealousy because he was having an affair with the woman and that a police "cover-up" initially tried to hide the general's involvement

General Lekhanya has denied the allegations

The Lesotho Commissioner of Police, Major-General James Dingiswayo, told the inquiry that when he went to the general's house he immediately admitted firing the shot that killed Mr Ramone.

Colonel Thaabe Letsie, a member of the ruling military council and Minister of Foreign Affairs, said he did not know if General Lekhanya had ever informed the military council of his role in the killing

Lesotho's Attorney-General, Mr Kelebone Maope, was then called to testify on a "secret" memo he had written to some members of the government outlining the apparent contradictions in witnesses' statements

Mr Maope said his aim had been to try and get the general to make a full written statement to save the government any "embarrassment".

Highlands insurers

A HOSKEN-PFV consortium
has been appointed insurance
broker for the Lesotho High-
lands water project

Won against international
competition, the insurance
will cover work undertaken
by the Lesotho Highlands De-
velopment Authority and the
Trans Caledon Tunnel Au-
thority

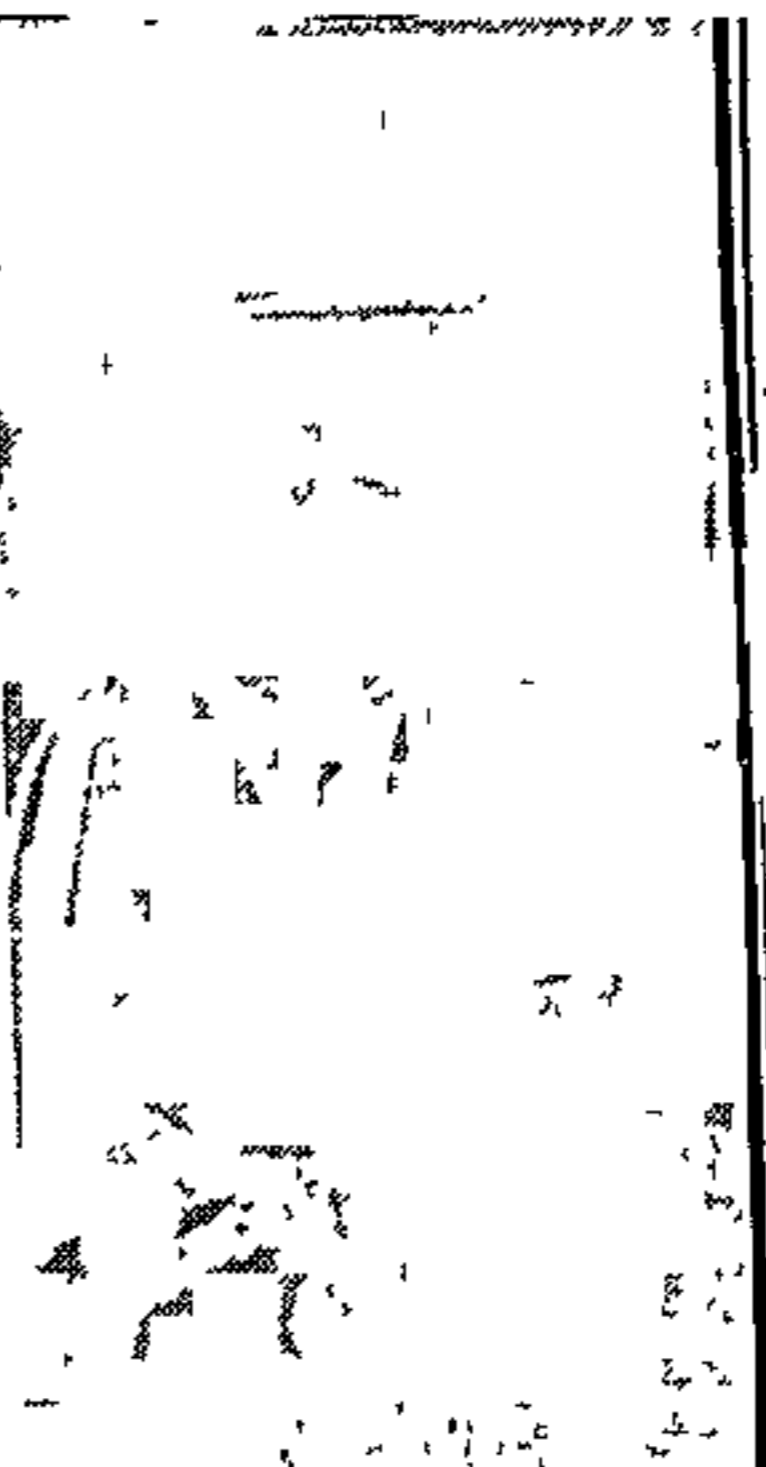
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Times 24/9/87

Date of (16-7)
Lesotho
Soweto 25/11/87
inquest

THE chief magistrate of Maseru, Letsela Mapetla, announced on Saturday that the finding in the inquest into the death of a 20-year-old student in which the chairman of the military council of Lesotho Major-General Metsing Lekhanya is implicated, will be given on October 5

Lekhanya admitted during the hearing that he had fatally shot the student, George Ramone, at the Lesotho Agricultural College, Maseru, on the night of December 23 last year because the student had apparently been molesting a young woman on the college campus

Major Lekhanya fired the shot that killed the student.



Lesotho winner follows its instinct

31 Dec

26 19 187

A SEVEN-year-old clothing manufacturing company, Lesotho Clothing Industries, has grown to the point of being the tiny country's largest exporter and foreign currency earner

LCI has achieved international success with its single brand label "Instinct" over a range of leisure wear, surf shorts and wetsuits

It exports over R8m worth of clothing to the US annually, as well as a substantial amount to Japan, Canada, Britain, France, Holland and Germany

In 1984, 50% of its output was sold on the SA market but now just 25% goes to SA

(167)

From a staff of 30 in 1982, and with a capital loan from the Lesotho National Development Corporation, the company now employs over 500 people and has registered an annual turnover growth of nearly 50%

The company believes its success hinges on a merchandising strategy which delivers summer clothing to both southern and northern hemispheres



Setting new international leisurewear trends are, from left, Lesotho Clothing Industries MD Tim Holden and designers Amanda Cherry and Paul Krause

I BELIEVE a new realism exists in Africa today, replacing the rhetoric of the past and opening the way for a truly constructive role to be played by South Africa in the future — Dr

John Mare, Department of Foreign Affairs.

QUOTES

THE whole of Sub-Saharan Africa is like a big village. Every change ripples through the whole sub-continent — Safto

PERSONAL contact in Africa is absolutely crucial. Unless you're on the right side of the right person, you're blocked. It's a long tradition — a brotherhood concept, a big chief mentality. Presidents see businessmen all the time — Safto

King to address UN

Star 3/10/67
MASERU — Lesotho's King Moshoeshoe II will fly out next Friday on a 23-day overseas visit.

The king will first travel to New York to address the United Nations General Assembly. He will then fly to Singapore at the invitation of Prime Minister Mr Lee Kuan Yew. (167)

The Lesotho monarch will also attend the Commonwealth conference in Kuala Lumpur. He has been invited by President Robert Mugabe to visit Zimbabwe on his way back to Lesotho.

...knife," the witness said
A fight ensued with the two men
... incident to a police station
Further details would be released
when police received them — Sapa

Potch hostels won't go non-racial

POTCHEFSTROOM — The Potchefstroom University for Christian Higher Education has no intention of opening its campus hostels to all races

In a statement yesterday, the university said it regarded the cultural character of its hostels as an important part of its educational task and, as such, would like to retain it in its present form

The Minister of Education and Culture has granted the provision of and control over campus housing to the university council

The council said their decision was in accordance with the guidelines of the Government and any future developments would also be carried out within the prescription

of the Ministers' Council

The university council said it was necessary that the housing needs of coloured students, who for the past two years have been housed in the guest house on the campus, should be alleviated

New housing units would be erected on the campus based on the concept of townhouses. Because demand for this type of housing was limited, only that which was deemed necessary would be provided

The university said it had already received contributions of more than R1 million from various mining companies for these units

Occupation, it said, should take place by January 1991 — Sapa

The Union also wants the authorities to specify clearly the nature of gifts which can be received by public representatives in their official capacities, and wants the Government to peg an amount as a guideline.

King to address UN

MASERU — Lesotho's King Moshoeshoe II will fly out next Friday on a 23-day overseas visit.

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The Lesotho monarch will also attend the Commonwealth conference in Kuala Lumpur. He has been invited by President Robert Mugabe to visit Zimbabwe on his way back to Lesotho.

Court acquits Lesotho leader of shooting

small

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6-12/10/89

By MZIMKULU MALUNGA

THE Maseru Magistrate's Court yesterday ruled that Lesotho's military ruler, Major-General Metsing Lekhanya, had been justified in shooting dead a 20-year-old student last December.

Chief magistrate Letsela Mapetla, who recorded a verdict of "justifiable homicide", said he accepted the evidence given by Lekhanya two weeks ago and found that the general's testimony had not been contradicted by witnesses.

Lekhanya had told the court that he killed Goerge Ramone, a third-year student at the Lesotho Agricultural College, on the night of December 23 last year.

In his evidence Lekhanya had said he had shot in Ramone's "general direction" as the student fled after allegedly raping a woman, Puleng Makara, on the campus.

Observers had seen the trial as an attempt by Lekhanya's rivals on Lesotho's ruling military council to force the general to resign.

A second inquest into the deaths of civilians suspected of being murdered by members of Lesotho's army is now expected to begin in mid-November.

Lesotho king wants to host SA talks

By David Braun,
The Star's Foreign
News Service

WASHINGTON — King Moshoeshoe II of Lesotho meets President Bush and US deputy secretary of state Mr Lawrence Eagleburger in Washington this week, and on the agenda may be his idea of hosting peace talks among the leaders of South Africa

The 51-year-old monarch arrived in the US on October 8, when he addressed the opening session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

NEGOTIATION

According to local media reports, he expressed the idea at the UN that he and the leaders of Swaziland and Botswana should be involved in South Africa's negotiation process

King Moshoeshoe's schedule in Washington on Friday includes meetings with the corps of African ambassadors to the US, the IMF and World Bank, and members of House and Senate subcommittees on African affairs

He was also due to meet members of the congressional black caucus

The king's last visit to the US was in October 1987 when he met President Ronald Reagan

LESOTHO PROJECT

Tender time

Though work on the Katse Dam, first of six in the massive Lesotho Highlands Water Project, will commence only by August tender documents are complete and will be issued on Monday

Underlining the worldwide interest in the scheme, 38 international consortia have registered as potential tenderers. Competition for the lucrative construction contracts involving the Katse Dam, delivery tunnel and transfer tunnels is likely to be fierce.

Construction of the access roads to the dam site and other infrastructural work began a year ago. Included in the three-phase, 30-year project are:

- Six dams,
- 246 km of tunnels;
- Two hydro-electric power stations,
- 278 km of roads, and
- Upgrading of more than 300 km of existing roads

Madelein Gericke, of the Department of Foreign Affairs, says tenders for Katse Dam will close by mid-February 1990, and, while it is due for completion only by mid-1996, water storage will begin before. Water delivery to SA should take place by early 1996.

After the remaining dams are completed, over a 30-year period, the annual flow of water into the Vaal basin will be effectively doubled. Water supplies to the PWV will be secure until at least 2040.

The massive new water scheme will buy SA peace of mind while Lesotho will benefit more financially.

The construction of two hydro-electric power stations (financed by Lesotho), pro-



Katse Dam site ... tenders pour in

ducing about 180 MW a year, will also make the country self-sufficient in power generation and save it up to R20m a year in Eskom charges. Lesotho will also earn about R150m a year from the sale of water to SA and there will be ample surplus for its own irrigation schemes.

Other more intangible benefits will be the opening up of Lesotho's mountainous hinterland. The new lakes that will be created could become a playground for international tourists and fishermen. Thousands of jobs will also be created and reach a peak of 6 000 by 1994.

At 1985 prices, the cost of the project was estimated at R4bn but, by the end of this year, total cost estimates should have risen to about R7bn. The cost of providing dams, tunnels, pumps and roads will be SA's responsibility but the benefit will be the eventual provision of 2 200m m³ of water annually to the Vaal Dam.

Gericke says about R290m has already been spent on the project which employs about 1 200 people. Apart from the various design contracts, companies that have benefited from construction contracts include LTA (awarded a R97m portion of the northern access road) and Murray & Roberts (a R13m contract for advanced infrastructure engineering works at Katse Dam). Other contracts for catering, plant supply, culverts, repair and servicing of plant, and computers, have also been awarded.

Design, technical assistance and two construction contracts totalling R84,6m have been awarded to UK, French and Canadian companies. The construction contracts went to Dumes Construction and Spie Batignolles.

The international nature of the project is highlighted by the fact that the European Development Fund is helping to finance the hydro-electric component, SA the project costs, the European Investment Bank undertakes geo-technical planning, the World Bank provides engineering design and documentation, the UN Development Programme provides administration and three experts, while the UK provides technical aid.

The current, R1bn phase 1A of the project includes the construction of the 1 600m m³ Katse Dam on the Malibamatsu River;

Muela power station near Butha-Buthe, a 48 km connecting tunnel, a 38 km delivery tunnel from Muela to the Ash River near Clarens; and the Sentinel and Thlaka Dams at the power station site.

Phases 1B, 2 and 3 will include the construction of the Mole Dam, 30 km Mole-Katse tunnel, a second hydro-electric power station, 7 040m m³ Mashai Dam and 20 km tunnel

to the Katse Dam, and the 2 700m m³ Tsoelike Dam.

"From an engineering point of view, the Lesotho project is the biggest of its kind in the world and takes place in some of the most rugged and inhospitable terrain in Africa.

"It involves some of the largest rockfill dams in the world and hundreds of kilometres of tunnelling to route water to the Vaal River system. It will stimulate the flow of capital and improve relations between SA and Lesotho," says Gericke. ■

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S/Times 15/10/89

SUNDAY TIMES, Business Times

By Ian Smith

HUB launches into Lesotho

THE "launch site" for South African and imported equipment and supplies for the R4-billion Lesotho Highlands Water Project is going up on the outskirts of the northern Free State dorp of Fouriesburg.

A consortium of local and foreign businessmen has formed Fouriesburg Transport Holdings and is spending R12.5-million to establish the Highlands Utility Base (HUB), which will be the jumping off point for supplies to the project sites.

It has bought a 10ha site 9km from Fouriesburg station which will provide a vehicle service and fueling depot, offices and conference rooms for contractors and engineers, warehousing and trans-shipping facilities and factory premises for service industries.

A bulk blending plant to mix cement with fly ash or slagment will be built on another 10ha site which has been leased for 20 years near the station.

"We want to provide the total infrastructure to support contractors on the scheme," says project coordinator Johannes van Zyl.

Work has already started on HUB to ensure that facilities are on the ground when the first major contracts are awarded, probably in about four months time.

He says the altitude and temperature extremes, road gradients and conditions on the contract sites will make construction work extremely difficult.

"All this means that contractors will need full support and back-up as close as possible to the sites. Fouriesburg is the place," says Mr Van Zyl.

The office block at the HUB will be in radio communication with the construction sites.

"We want to keep the engineer on site in contact with his head office, wherever in the world it may be, through radio and SA post office facilities."

Heavy equipment and supplies which arrive at Fouriesburg by rail or heavy vehicle will have to be transhipped onto specialist vehicles to handle the mountain roads.

"We will have a fleet of these vehicles which we will make available to Lesotho citizens who will be fully trained and given financial and maintenance support to operate their own vehicles. They will be owner-drivers operating on their own behalf," says Mr Van Zyl.

Highlands Water costs spiral

10 am 16/10/89

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COSTS for the Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP), for which first phase tender documents are being issued today, are threatening to spiral to well over R7bn

At 1985 prices the total cost of the project was initially estimated at R4bn, but SA government and Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA) sources disclosed last week that cost estimates were "extremely unrealistic" and reckon on a cost overrun close to R3bn.

In terms of the scheme, the Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA) is responsible for raising all the finance on the Lesotho side through World Bank, export credit agency and commercial bank funding. Repayment has been guaranteed by SA, which will service any debt in any currency of that part of the project relating to water transfer

BRENT MELVILLE

SA will also pay for all the work done on its side of the border through the Trans-Caledon Tunnel Authority (TCTA). Authorities have issued a warning to PWV consumers to brace themselves for "substantial" water price increases to pay for the Lesotho project.

The dampening financial prospects were brought to light last week by a spokesman for the Rand Water Board (RWB), who said that increases in water tariffs were "the tip of the iceberg".

Parliamentary water affairs officer Johann la Rue agrees "Tariffs are relatively low in comparison to what consumers will be paying by 1995, because SA is locked into a minimum-volume supply contract"

□ To Page 2

Highlands

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□ From Page 1

The minimum-volume supply contract is expected to double the annual flow of water into the Vaal basin, triggering costs not incorporated into the initial estimates. "We will have to pump more water, and for that we will need to purchase new pumping equipment and upgrade outdated equipment," says Water Affairs deputy director-general Theo van Robbroeck.

PWV consumers have already felt the pinch of inflating water bills. The RWB announced a hefty 16% increase in March which Environmental and Water Affairs Minister Gert Kotze followed up with a 2c/kl levy increase effective from April 1, a 4c/kl as of October 1 and a further 2c/kl hike which he announced last week

This translates into a total increase of about 34,7% to consumers of raw water.

TCTA chief engineer Frank Kubisch says this increase is still "relatively small" in relation to what PWV consumers will be paying by 1995

However Robbroeck downplays the cost factor, saying that in real terms the increase to the consumer will be relatively small and should not exceed 12%.

Tender documents for the first phase of the LHWP — the construction of the R1,5bn Katse Dam and 48km transfer tunnel — are to be issued today and awarded on August 15 next year.

● See Page 5

Lesotho feeling the strain of ⁽¹⁶⁷⁾ mismanagement

MASERU — In spite of an impressive growth performance last year, Lesotho's economy is under strain as a result of economic mismanagement and fiscal indiscipline.

Throughout the early 1980s Lesotho's economy was plagued by sharp fluctuations in the growth of real GDP, rising fiscal deficits, worsening current account deficits and declining foreign exchange

In 1988 the government embarked on a three-year programme of reform, backed by an IMF Structural Adjustment Facility worth SDR9m.

In the first fiscal year of the programme (April 1988-March 1989) the government either overshot, or simply ignored all the targets agreed with the fund

The most serious slippage last year was the budget deficit. The government agreed to reduce the deficit from M160m (maloti) to M95m, or 11% of GDP. But the deficit actually increased to M180m, or more than 17% of GDP.

This happened at a time when revenues were buoyant. Receipts from the SA Customs Union increased from M155m to M196m, sales tax and income tax receipts were also up.

On the expenditure front the government implemented an average wage increase of 40% for public sector employees, way above the agreed target of 23%.

Last year's overall balance of payments position showed a slight improvement as a result of a rapid increase in exports, migrant labour remittances and substantial capital inflows. But this masks a continuous deterioration in forex reserves, import coverage and a worsening of Lesotho external current account deficit.

Commitments

In addition the government broke its promise that it would incur no new non-concessional external borrowing outside the Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP)

Finance Minister Evaristus Sekhonyana blames last year's poor performance on expenditure commitments incurred by the previous government and the lack of political commitment to the programme.

Critics say financial management in the ministry almost non-existent. Last year's budget was published four months after the start of the fiscal year. The ministry seemed unable to control capex by other ministries. Lack of proper debt scrutiny meant the government often repayed its debts late at penal interest rates.

In spite of this, real GDP grew by 11.9% last year, marking a significant improvement in living standards for a population growing at 2.6% a year.

The government says the programme is on track this year. However, Sekhonyana already admits that this year's budget deficit is likely to be between M20m and M30m over the M68m target.

The government has also recorded significant success in attracting foreign investment for manufacturing for export and job creation.

Import substitution is also being encouraged, successfully, for food items and activities related to the LHWP such as building and construction materials and tourism.

The government is aware that although the LHWP will improve the fiscal and external positions over the next 50 years it will not be a panacea — Financial Times.

16 jacks for Lesotho bridge

18/10/89 TERRY WILKINS (167)

SIXTEEN of the largest hydraulic jacks yet made in SA will be used in the building of the Malibamatso Bridge on the approach route to the Lesotho Highlands water scheme

The jacks, which each weigh over three tons, with a capacity of 1 200 tons, will be supplied by Bellambie Mining and Industrial to LTA Construction, which will use them to maintain the required tolerance during the launch of the concrete bridge deck. They were designed by Bellambie in close co-operation with LTA engineers

The 10,9m-wide bridge spans 465,5m of rugged terrain in central Lesotho and access to the remote region is only by four-wheel-drive or six-wheel-drive vehicles

"The order reflects the growing confidence in local expertise to produce this type of specialised equipment," said Bellambi's lifting equipment product manager Gerry Miller

Tough at top says ex-world champ

Rough rider aims to reel in the Roof

By Dawn Barkhuizen

MASERU — He's looked death in the eye more than once and faced the elements alone in the Amazon and the Andes. He's about 2 m of solid muscle and scar tissue — a man so tough that he would play tennis using Boris Becker as the ball.

But at the moment he is the one being bounced about by some of the toughest ever terrain chosen in the 23rd 1 000 km Roof of Africa which began yesterday.

World champion motor cyclist, Heinz "Kini" Kinggader (29) epitomises the lean, mean fighting machine, a man who has broken almost every bone in his body but keeps coming back for more because its "fun". A man so fit and strong, you would expect him to rip off hot-

the tops with his teeth and growl rather than talk. But he doesn't, the 29-year-old Austrian is charming and soft-spoken.

In Lesotho for the Star/Lesotho Sun Roof of Africa, the former 250 cc motocross world champion and winner of last week's Japanese endurance race explains what goes into getting to the top of the ladder in one of the world's toughest and most gruelling sports.

It is not a jet set life of high glamour, late night razzles and swigging champagne while the sun rises in the hot spots of the world, he explains.

It is one that demands an hour of running every morning, a work out in the gym three times a week, thousands of kilometres of travelling to remote destinations, bed by 8 pm and practice, practice, practice.

"Endurance races can last 10, 20 days. You're riding hundreds of kilometres every day. Your body takes a real bashing. You use every muscle, you can never let your concentration slip for a second. A small stone can finish you — and then you're alone in the mountains with no back-up team."

"And if you want to stay on top in motocross, you have to have a killer instinct, be prepared to drive right over another rider," he adds.

He was speaking from a car park of the Lesotho Sun, tinkering on his bike under a baking sun, holding thumbs that the clear blue skies and 30 deg temperatures would hold out — few riders made it across the finishing line last year after battling through rain, snow and freezing conditions.



Heinz Kinggader (29) (with sunglasses) is not afraid of the rough ride across Lesotho's rugged mountain terrain. With him is Austrian National Enduro champion, Hans Kaiser (23). Picture by Karen Fletcher.

The Star Fri.



Triumphant... bikers Alfie Cox and Jeremy Davies deliberately crossed the finish line together to share the honours for The Star/Lesotho Sun Roof of Africa Rally. ● Picture by Karen Fletcher.

By Dawn Barkhuizen

MASERU — There was a "double draw" for the first time in The Star/Lesotho Sun Roof of Africa rally this weekend

Two South Africans, Alfie Cox and Jeremy Davies, shared the honours in the motorbike section and Apie Reyneke and Lukas Dreyer tied with Robin Yates and Kenny Skjoldhammer in the car section

Cox won last year's Roof and his shared triumph this year makes him the first biker to have won the event for two years in a row

The 1989 race is also likely to go down as the Roof with one of the lowest finishing ratios only 33 of the 150 entrants managed to wobble, waver or even "wheelie" over the finish line

Heavy rain and hail in Lesotho brought havoc to the race after expectations of good weather. Only a week earlier King Moshoeshe II called on his people to pray for rain

Bikes, cars and drivers were bashed, smashed and broken as temperatures swung from boiling hot to freezing cold and rivers swelled suddenly on a route described by German ace Bert von Zitzewitz as the toughest he has

Six share honours in tough Roof

ridden

It was a race in which dedication, ingenuity, courage, perseverance and sportsmanship were clearly shown, said Mr Germis Geldenhuys, head of the South African Trade Mission in Lesotho, at Saturday's prizegiving

"Those who have succeeded amongst the peaks and pinnacles of Lesotho have reached the pinnacles of success"

One of the finest examples of sheer grit came from the former world motocross champion, Austrian Heinz Kinigadner, who was knocked off his bike when wire stretched between rocks caught him by the neck on day two of the 1 000 km route. He continued

On the final day he woke up in a hut after being knocked unconscious and smashing his front teeth in a fall

Unable to spot a medical heli-

copter, the battered champion pressed on for 100 km to finish fourth in the bike section, according to his sponsor, Mr Butch Hirsch of KTM.

One week before the Lesotho race the 29-year-old father of two, who owns a bakery in the Austrian Tyrol, was undergoing chemotherapy for cancer, Mr Hirsch said

Driver Philip Malan, who tossed away a chance of winning when he stopped to tow opponent Derrick Pinnoy 25 m up the mountainside, was named the man who best characterised the spirit of the event

Pinnoy, strapped inside his car, rolled five times when a narrow pass collapsed in driving rain

Local hero Patrick Andrews ended fifth — the best result yet for a Lesotho biker.

Vryburg auctioneer Andre Kock, with his brother Rodney, described the final day as "one bad moment"

"Last time we swore we would never be back. Now look at us. We're here"

It was a sentiment echoed by almost every one of the mighty men who set out in the 23rd year of the race

you 25/10/89

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Triumphant ... bikers Alfie Cox and Jeremy Davies deliberately crossed the finish line together to share the honours for The Star/Lesotho Sun Roof of Africa Rally ● Picture by Karen Fletcher

By Dawn Barkhuizen
MASERU — There was a "double draw" for the first time in The Star/Lesotho Sun Roof of Africa rally this weekend

Two South Africans, Alfie Cox and Jeremy Davies, shared the honours in the motorbike section and Aple Reyneke and Lukas Dreyer tied with Robin Yates and Kenny Skjoldhammer in the car section

Cox won last year's Roof and his shared triumph this year makes him the first biker to have won the event for two years in a row

The 1989 race is also likely to go down as the Roof with one of the lowest finishing ratios only 33 of the 150 entrants managed to wobble, waver or even "wheelie" over the finish line

Heavy rain and hail in Lesotho brought havoc to the race after expectations of good weather. Only a week earlier King Moshoeshe II called on his people to pray for rain

Bikes, cars and drivers were bashed, smashed and broken as temperatures swung from boiling hot to freezing cold and rivers swelled suddenly on a route described by German ace Bert von Zitzewitz as the toughest he has

Six share honours in tough Roof

ridden

It was a race in which dedication, ingenuity, courage, perseverance and sportsmanship were clearly shown, said Mr Germis Goldenhuys, head of the South African Trade Mission in Lesotho, at Saturday's prizegiving

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Lekhanya 'regrets' killing

MASERU — Lesotho's military strongman, Major General Justin Metsing Lekhanya, says he has "deep personal regrets" about the shooting of a 20-year-old student last December whom he claims was trying to rape a woman.

But at a rare media conference here yesterday, the leader of the ruling Lesotho Military Council accused Argus Company newspapers in particular of publishing sensationalist reports on the event "that completely outgrew itself".

At an inquest in September, General Lekhanya admitted shooting the student, Mr George Ramone, at the Maseru Agricultural College. He said while on patrol at the college he had come across Mr Ramone trying to rape a 39-year-old woman and had shot him as he fled.

Although the inquest magistrate exonerated the general, the case excited widespread comment in Lesotho. Rifts formed in the Military Council and the

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Sta 28/10/89
JOHN RYAN

Council of Ministers after rumours that General Lekhanya had had a previous relationship with the woman, Mrs Phuleng Makara.

Yesterday's press conference, originally scheduled for 2.30 pm, was brought forward to noon. As a result, foreign newsmen invited to attend were unable to question the general.

In a prepared statement, General Lekhanya called the shooting incident "a matter that unfortunately assumed political proportions unequalled in our recent history, because it aroused so much press interest and was treated with so much sensationalism".

He added: "I would like all of you to understand that I have very deep personal regrets for the young man who died during this incident."

Lesotho leader is cleared

0/10/89
The Star's Africa News Service (167) STAR.

MASERU — A Maseru magistrate has exonerated Lesotho's military ruler, Major-General Metsing Lekhanya, of any blame for the death of a student killed by him.

The killing of 20-year-old agricultural student Mr George Ramone was described as justifiable homicide by the chief magistrate of Maseru, Mr Letsela Mapetla, in a five-minute judgment delivered yesterday.

The judgment ended speculation

over the general's role in the death of Mr Ramone, which led to the appointment of a commission of inquiry into the shooting.

Mr Mapetla said the inquiry had not been presented with any evidence that contradicted that given by General Lekhanya, namely that he had shot Mr Ramone to prevent him escaping after the general had intervened to stop the student raping a woman in the grounds of Maseru Agricultural College on December 23 last year.

Minister is sacked

LEBOWA Chief Minister Mr Nelson Ramodike dropped a bombshell on Tuesday when he axed a close confidante and Minister of Home Affairs Mr L G Mathole for undisclosed reasons.

Officials at Mathole's former office said he had been present yesterday morning and had later left for his home at Ga-Sekhukhune where he could not be reached.

The dismissal was made after a cabinet meeting where Mathole was allegedly confronted

By MATHATHA
TSEDU

with over 40 charges of misconduct which led to his walkout from the meeting, reliable sources said

The sources said the dramatic events, which ended with Mathole seen packing his personal belongings into a private vehicle, had also culminated in the expected transfer of Ramodike's personal secretary and two typists

Mathole was appoint-

ed to the cabinet in 1987 when Ramodike came into office following the death of Dr C N Phatudi.

Sources said the present Deputy Minister of Commerce, Industries and Manpower, Mr Derrick Kobe, was likely to succeed Mathole as Minister of Home Affairs

The expected announcement on Friday morning will coincide with a visit to the homeland by Minister of Education and Training Mr Stoffel van der Merwe.

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Sawetaw

9/11/89

Book scandal, inquiry hears

An unlicensed bookshop in Lebowa was granted a government order of over R5 million to supply books.

By MATHATHA TSEBU

This was told to a one-man commission of inquiry into misuse of government funds by the Lebowa Deputy Minister of Commerce, Industries and Manpower and former secretary of education, Mr M D Kobe.

The order, Kobe said,

He said the "illegal" bookshop was operated as part of Ramokgopa General Dealers. Kobe, who is also the president of the Lebowa Chamber of Commerce, was testifying before Mr O A De Meyer, who is presiding over the inquiry into fraud and corruption in the homeland government.

Kobe was the second witness in the inquiry which opened on Thursday to a full house of spectators. Earlier, education secretary Dr M D

Mphahlele confirmed that his bookshop had received orders to supply books to Lebowa schools totalling over R6 million.

Corruption

Mphahlele said he had not paid tax since 1985. He said he had obtained his bookshop license from the Lebowakgomo town council licensing board in 1979. He was at the time chairman of the Licensing Board, he conceded.

Asked by advocate B Van Wyk, who is leading

evidence, whether he had issued the license to himself, Mphahlele said he had recused himself when his application was discussed. He refused to answer a question about whether he had not used his position as chairman of the board to influence their decision.

Mphahlele also told the commission he had not been aware that his department had exceeded its budget by over R7 million during 1988. When asked to explain the

deficit by the sessional committee on finance earlier this year, he had discovered that lack of proper control in the ordering of books was the main cause of the over-expenditure.

Outlining the extent of corruption that will be uncovered by the commission, Van Wyk said at the beginning of the hearing that the Lebowa department of education had no control structure to monitor the supply of books.

Official owned 'illegal' shop

The commission is sitting at the Thabamopo magistrate offices and will resume tomorrow